



Scrutiny topic registration form

Fields marked with an asterisk * are required.

* Proposed topic: Access to dental services in York
 * Councillor registering the topic Moore - Councillor Richard Moore

Submitted due to an unresolved 'Cllr Call for Action' enquiry

Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review:

- How** a review should best be undertaken given the subject
- Who** needs to be involved
- What** should be looked at
- By when** it should be achieved; and
- Why we are doing it ?**

Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached.

	Yes?	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions
Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In keeping with corporate priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Level of Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What do

you think it should achieve?

A review should examine the provision of NHS dental services in York. At present the reports supplied to the HSC are high-level statistics, which may or may not bear any resemblance to the actuality. A successful review will determine whether the provision of dental services is effective. Examples of whether patients receive the treatment they require when they require it are as follows.

1. A patient can be assigned to a dentist, and thus removed from the PCT database. After an initial check up with a dentist they may be told that they need treatment and the wait for this treatment can be lengthy. It could therefore be argued that the patient is not receiving the treatment they require when they require it.

2. Some dentists charge in advance of providing treatment and will not make the patient an appointment for treatment needed until the balance has been paid in full.

In summary, the intention of this scrutiny review would be to determine whether patients can get the treatment they need when they need it and if not to make recommendation to the PCT to improve their service, or if necessary for the Health Scrutiny Committee to use their powers to refer the matter to the Secretary for State of Health.

*** Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.**

The review should firstly be about patient experience and should examine the provision of services from a patient perspective. Secondly, it should investigate the system of "units of dental activity" (UDA) and determine (a) how the units are allocated, and (b) whether this system is effective in ensuring that there are sufficient units to maintain the service throughout the period for which they are allocated, so that patients can receive treatment. It should also consider whether there are alternative ways in which to guarantee that patients receive the treatment they require when they require it.

*** Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.**

This would require the assistance of the PCT, the dental equivalent of the LMC, interviews with residents to gather information (which could probably be done through such organisations as Age Concern, the Older People's Assembly and other voluntary organisations), and those dental practices, which offer NHS treatment.

*** Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?**

It would be for members of the HSC to consider how best this topic should be progressed, though the organisations mentioned above could be contacted for information. This would form a basis on which to determine the severity of the concern. The manner in which "units of dental activity" are allocated should be investigated, to

determine whether this is on a per capita basis, by the number of dentists in the

Annex B

practice, or by some other means. The question should then be "is this the best method?" The issue of missed appointments should be examined, to discover whether this has an impact on provision and, if so, the severity of the problem.

Estimate the timescale for completion.

- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months

Support documents or other useful information

Warning: This item is published and cannot be updated

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Date submitted: Tuesday, 6th January, 2009, 8.55 pm

Submitted by: Councillor Richard Moore