

Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Director of Public Health

Update on Oral Health in the City of York

Summary

1. A previous performance report to Scrutiny highlighted that hospital admissions for dental caries for children aged 0-4 in York were higher than the England average.
2. The Scrutiny Committee requested that further work be carried out to understand the reasons for this and what recommendations might be needed to improve this.
3. This report outlines the aims of the Oral Health Improvement Advisory Group (OHIAG) that has been established to undertake this work and to update the committee of the work undertaken by the group so far.

Background

4. An Oral Health Improvement Advisory Group (OHIAG) was established for York in December 2017. The main purpose of the OHIAG was to bring partners together from across the City of York to drive oral health improvement and address oral health inequalities.
5. The group would also look to promote population oral health prevention across the city. The OHIAG will use relevant data to inform decision making and prioritise goals. The group provides a forum to highlight any population based oral health concerns within York.
6. The OHIAG identified their first priority as being children. This was in response to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for York, which stated the Board would monitor progress on 'reducing hospital admissions for tooth decay in children' and in response to the request from this Scrutiny Committee to have a better understanding

of the reasons for high admissions for dental caries in the 0-4 age group and develop an action plan to address this.

7. To achieve the aims and objectives of the group, membership constitutes representatives from a wide range of organisations with a particular interest and focus on oral health in the City of York. These include:
 - Public Health Lead, City of York Council
 - Members of the Local Dental Committee
 - Local Dental Network Chair and Dental Commissioner, NHS England
 - Clinical Director, Salaried Dental Service
 - Consultant in Dental Public Health, Public Health England
 - Specialist Registrar in Dental Public Health, Public Health England
 - Representative of Dental Care Professionals
 - Oral Health Promotion leads
 - Patient Representative: Healthwatch
 - CCG representative
 - Acute NHS trust
 - CYC – Representation from the Healthy Child Service and Adult Social Care
 - As the group develops the membership list is anticipated to expand.
8. An oral health needs assessment of children in York is being undertaken by OHIAG. This is exploring the oral health needs and oral healthcare needs of children in York to identify any areas of concern in order to target resources towards improving the oral health of those at specific risk. The needs assessment had a specific aim of understanding the high admission rates for dental caries in 0-4 year olds in York.
9. The needs assessment is not yet finalised, but the data that has been examined to date has given a better understanding of the oral health of the children of York. It has included looking at the national oral health survey of 5 year old children in England, which is conducted every 2 years. The latest survey conducted in the 2016/17 school year revealed that 84.1% of 5 year old children in York that were surveyed (n=273) had no experience of dental decay. York had the highest percentage of 5 year olds with no experience of dental decay compared with all other areas of Yorkshire and the Humber that participated in the survey.
10. A Healthwatch report 'Filled to Capacity: NHS Dentistry in York' published in March 2018 reported the experiences of the local

population in York in accessing NHS dental care. The report explored the challenges facing individuals in accessing NHS dental care within the city. The needs assessment considered the issue of access for children and found that recent data provided by NHS England showed that between 82 and 93% of children aged 3-17 years of age in York in 2016/17 attended an NHS dental practice with slightly lower figures for 2017/18 (ranging from between 81-91%).

11. For all age groups between 0-17 years of age, attendance at an NHS dental practice in York was better in 2016/17 and 2017/18 when compared with attendance regionally in Yorkshire and the Humber.
12. Despite NHS dental attendance for children in York aged 0-2 years being higher than regional reported data, access for this age group is low at 38% for 2016/17 and 2017/18.
13. Professional application of fluoride varnish two or more times per year has been shown to be effective in reducing the levels of dental decay in both the primary and permanent dentition. Data supplied by NHS England reveals that 53.5% of children aged between 0-17 years of age received a Fluoride varnish application in 2016/17 and this increased to 64% in 2017/18. The numbers of applications has increased in York for children from 12620 applications in 2013/14 to 24713 in 2017/18.
14. The latest Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) from Public Health England for 2016/17 reveal that finished consultant episodes in York, by percentage of population, for all extractions, (for all diagnoses) in a hospital setting was the same as that for England for 0-19 year old children as a whole (0.5%), as well as for those aged 10-14 years of age (0.5%) and 15-19 years of age (0.3%). Comparing York with a Yorkshire and Humber NHS footprint for the same statistic for 0-19 year olds, a smaller percentage of the population of York was affected (0.8% Yorkshire and Humber compared with 0.5% York).
15. For children aged 0-4 years of age and 5-9 years of age, York had a higher percentage of the population than England (0-4 years of age - 0.5% York, compared with 0.3% England) and for those aged 5-9 years of age (1% York, compared with 0.8% England). York was the same or better though when compared regionally for those age groups 0-4 years of age (0.5% York 0.5% Yorkshire and Humber), 5-9 years of age (1% York compared with 1.5% Yorkshire and the Humber), 10-14 years of age (0.5% York compared with 0.6%

Yorkshire and the Humber), 15-19 years of age (0.3% York with 0.3% Yorkshire and the Humber).

16. In 2016/17 the percentage of finished consultant episodes for extractions with caries (dental decay) as the primary diagnosis was 67.9% in York compared with 63.6% for England. NHS England is currently exploring services performing dental extractions under general anaesthesia across the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole. Due to the nature by which dental data is currently collated by the NHS, the latest data supplied by NHS England in relation to referrals to the Community Dental Service is on a Trust level geography and numbers of dental procedures performed in a hospital environment (including dental extractions under general anaesthesia) is on a Vale of York CCG footprint. It is not possible from either of these datasets to accurately assess whether there is an increased need for this service from residents within the city of York at present.

Consultation

17. The oral health needs assessment for children is being progressed through the OHIAG, membership of which has been outlined in paragraph seven above.

Analysis

18. Although the oral health needs assessment has not been finalised as yet, the data examined to date is showing an emerging picture of the oral health of our children in York. It suggests that in five year olds in York oral health is good. There is data that suggests that oral health by age 12 has declined, but this data is almost ten years old.
19. Attendance at a dentist for young people in York is high, although improvements could be made in the 0-2 age group. This is likely to be achieved through better education of parents about when to start taking your child to see a dentist.
20. The number of children in York receiving fluoride varnish is increasing, but further improvements in this could be achieved.
21. Referral to hospital for tooth extractions for any cause is in line with England rates overall for children in York, although it is slightly higher for the under 10 age groups. This is not a dissimilar picture to that seen for the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole.
22. The high rates of extractions under general anaesthesia for dental caries in the 0-4 age group has not fully been explained to date, but

the data highlighted suggests that this is not due to poorer oral health of children in York.

Council Plan

23. The work of the OHIAG relate to the Council Plan priority to focus on frontline services for residents.

Implications

Financial - There are no financial implications to this report. The OHIAG is undertaken within the budget of Public Health.

Human Resources (HR) - There are no HR implications

Equalities - The aim of the OHIAG is to improve oral health for all residents of the City of York.

Legal - There are no legal implications

Information Technology (IT) - There are no IT issues relating to this report

Property - There are no property issues relating to this report

Risk management - The recommendations within this report do not present any risks which need to be monitored.

Recommendations

24. The Committee are asked to:
- i. Receive the update on the work being carried out to understand the oral health of children in York.
 - ii. Agree to receive the final version of the oral health in children needs assessment when it is finalised in December 2018.
 - iii. Agree to receive an Oral Health Strategy for York, when produced in 2019.
 - iv. Consider inviting NHS England to report to scrutiny on the work they are undertaking on tooth extractions under anaesthesia across the region.

Reason: To keep the committee informed of issues relating to the oral health of children in York and provide assurance that action is being taken to address any areas where concerns are raised.

Contact Details:

Authors:

Martin Ramsdale,
Dental Public Health
Registrar and

Natalie McPhillips,
Public Health
Practitioner
(Advanced)

Tel: 01904 553377

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Sharon Stoltz
Director of Public Health

**Report
Approved**



Date

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations

CCG- Clinical Commissioning Group

CYC – City of York Council

HES - Hospital Episode Statistics

NHS- National Health Service

OHIAG - Oral Health Improvement Advisory Group