
Health Scrutiny Committee

5th January 2009

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Update on Dental Services

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the provision of NHS dental services in York and to present Members of the Committee with a new style of reporting template from the Primary Care Trust (PCT). This information is attached at Annex 1 to this report.

Background

2. During 2006/07 the Health Scrutiny Committee received regular updates on the numbers of people on the waiting list for allocation to an NHS dentist in York and the numbers who had been allocated since the last update.
3. There were also concerns from Members about allegations that some dental practices had been forced to cease offering treatment as they had used up their agreed units of dental activity and how this can affect patients.
4. Members had agreed to keep a watching brief on the numbers of allocations to dental practices and also to ask for an update on the situation regarding the use of units of dental activity and how this could affect patients.
5. At a meeting on 3 December 2007 Members requested the following information be included in future updates:
 - Information from the Office of National Statistics on numbers of people who did not see a dentist at all.
 - How long patients waited to be allocated an NHS dentist and how much additional capacity was being created as opposed to additional capacity being made when patients moved on.
 - A report back on progress with commissioning a Sunday morning emergency dental clinic.
6. At a further meeting on 7 July 2008 Members requested that future updates should be provided in writing, preferably in time to form part of the meeting agenda. They also requested that written updates be provided in the form of a

'standard template' in order that the requested data was reported to them and presented in a manner that was easily interpreted.

Consultation

7. This report is part of the ongoing consultation between Members and the various Health Trusts.
8. An informal meeting was held on 13th August 2008 and attended by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Officer and Amanda Brown the Assistant Director; Corporate and Public Affairs at the Primary Care Trust (PCT). The aim of the meeting was to explore the best way to present information to the Committee in the future and to find a format for presenting statistics that could clearly show trends within the service.
9. Amanda Brown will attend today's meeting to answer any questions that Members may have on the information provided.

Options

10. Members may wish to consider:
 - Whether the new reporting template is an appropriate way of providing the necessary statistical information or whether they wish to amend or change this.
 - Whether they wish to receive further updates and at what intervals. If so these would need to be added to the Health Scrutiny Committee work plan.

Analysis

11. Although receiving regular updates is invaluable in keeping Members informed of progress regarding developments in dental services, Members may wish to consider whether this will have an impact on other work scheduled on the current work plan.

Corporate Priorities

12. This report relates to the following corporate priority:

'Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.'

Implications

13. **Financial** – There are no known financial implications associated with this report.
14. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with this report.

15. There are no Equalities, Legal, Crime & Disorder, Information Technology, Property or other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

17. Members are asked to:
- i. Note the report and the update from the PCT.
 - ii. Decide whether they wish to adopt the new reporting template
 - iii. Decide whether they would like to receive further updates on dental services in York and at what intervals so that these can be added to the Health Scrutiny Committee's work plan.

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

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Quentin Baker
Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services
01904 551004

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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 1** Report from the Primary Care Trust in relation to dental services in York