

Report To: York City Council OSC-17th December 2008

Report From: Amanda Brown Assistant Director of Commissioning and Service Development

Report Subject: Dental Services

1. Introduction

The OSC asked the PCT to provide a template of information which could be provided on a regular basis 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.

Templates of the available information are provided in this report with an explanation of what the information is. This is provided to assist the Committee in reaching a decision about what information it would like to see more regularly. The information is derived from nationally negotiated dental contracts and in the case of the access database records which are kept by the PCT.

The templates provide information on numbers of patients seen, additions and allocations from the access database and overall trend information since 2006.

2. Numbers Of New Patients Seen

Table 1: The number of new patients seen by NHS dentists in the 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
Variance since March 2008	6.9%

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 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. Access

Table 2: The numbers of patients assigned to a dentist from the database for the period 1 April – 30 November 2008

Locality	April - June	July - Sept	Oct	Nov	TOTAL
Selby & York	1,789	5,684	2,648	737	10,858

Table 3: The numbers of patients who have been added to the database for the period 1 April – 30 November 2008

Locality	April - June	July - Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Selby & York	2,044	2,368	1,317	1,237	6,966

Table 4: The number of patients on the database waiting to be assigned to a dentist waiting on the PCT Dental Waiting List by locality for period 1 April – 30 November 2008

Locality	April - June	July - Sept	Oct	Nov
Selby & York	4759	1443	112	612

Explanation-Table 4 indicates the number of patients on the data base when the count was undertaken

Table 5: The month in which the last allocation were made to NHS dentists

Locality	Month
Selby & York	November 2008

Explanation - Table 5 identifies the date when the last allocations were undertaken from the dental waiting list. This does not include patients who have made a specific request for a dental practice. All patients are advised that they may have a longer wait if a specific dentist is chosen.

Patients can choose to see any NHS dentist and are not limited to those within a specific catchment area.

4. Trend information since 2006

The following charts put the information provided above in the context of activity undertaken by all NHS primary care dental services in North Yorkshire. The information is only available at County or locality level. It may assist the OSC to understand the relative demand across the County.

Chart 1 - Comparative Length Of Time On The Database

This information was prepared in September and on 22nd October 2008. The two months illustrate that the database may change rapidly i.e. if additional dental capacity becomes available the list will reduce significantly and equally it may increase if the PCT runs a campaign to promote NHS dentistry and so on. If the OSC decide that they wish to see this information as part of a regular template the information service will be asked to produce the data to reflect the same time periods as used to report information from the access database.

The key to the bar chart is as follows:

- SY –Selby York locality
- CHARD –Craven and Harrogate locality
- HR – Hambleton and Richmondshire locality
- SWR – Scarborough Whitby Ryedale locality

Chart 1-September 2008

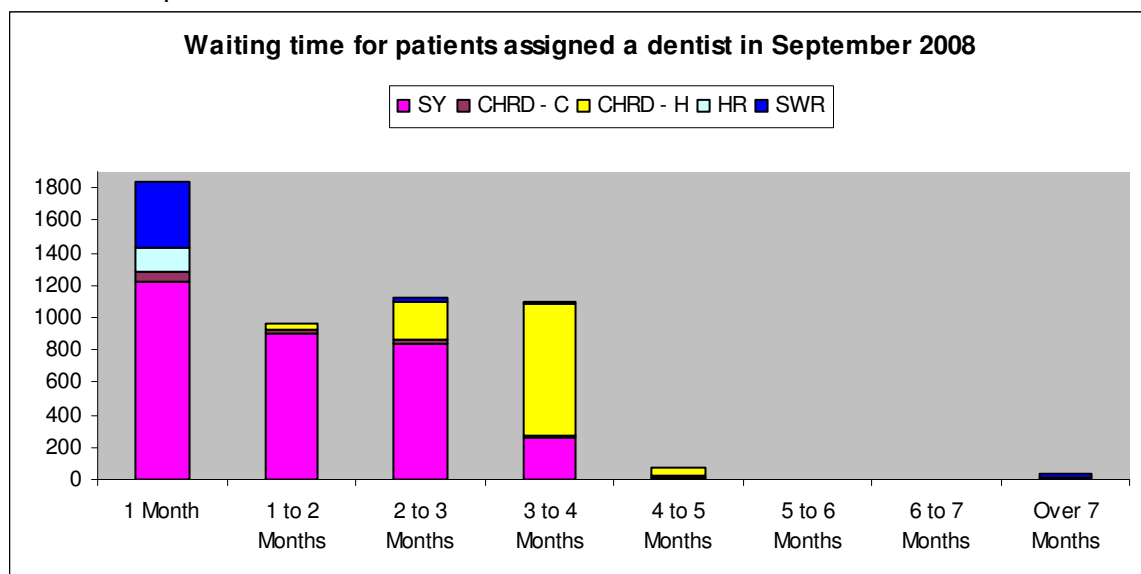


Chart 1 - October 2008

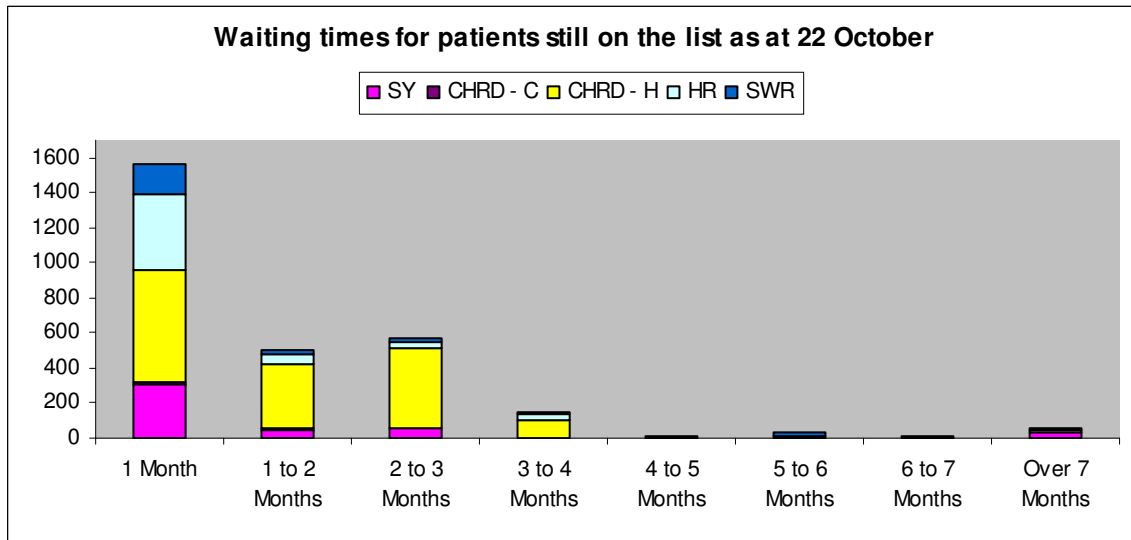


Chart 2 - Comparative trend on the numbers of North Yorkshire patients added to the data base and assigned to a dentist April to September 2008

This chart shows how the numbers of patients on the database fluctuates according to demand and capacity over the course of the year.

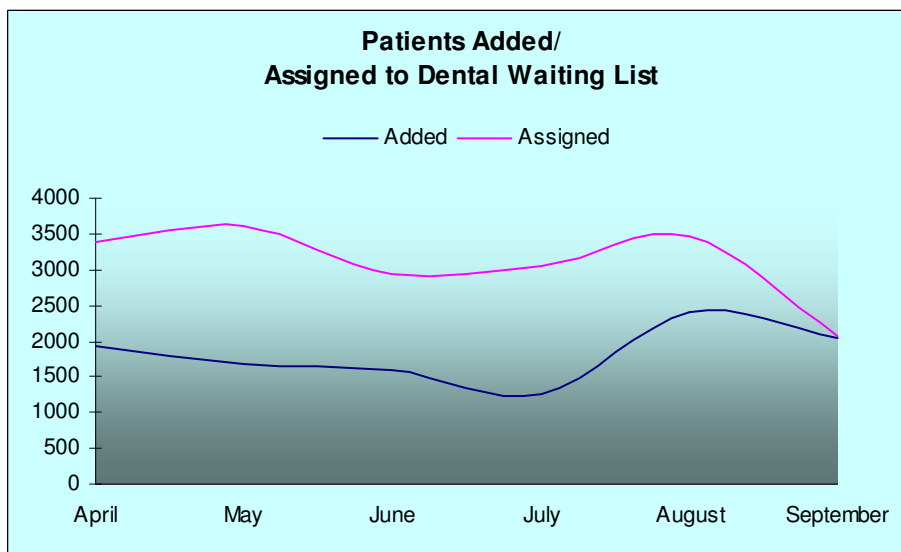


Chart 3 – Median Time In Months On The Data Base Prior To Allocation

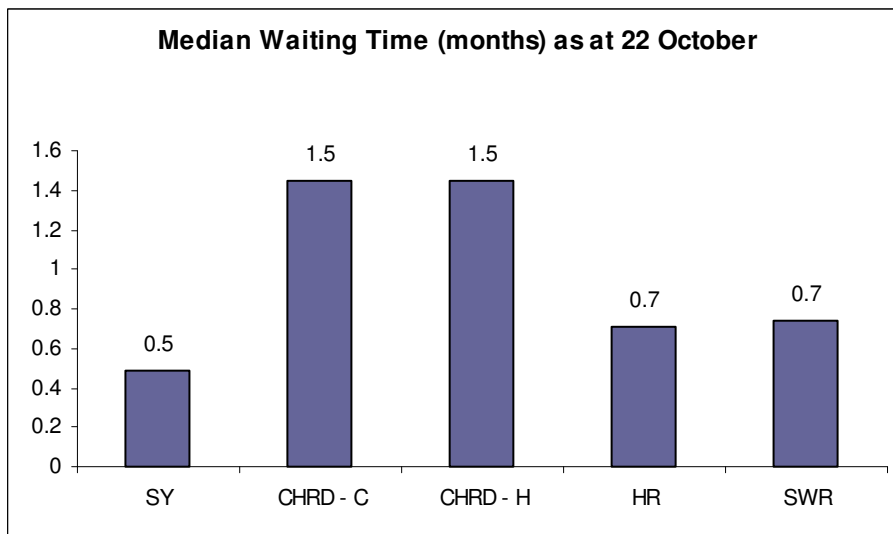
This chart shows how long patients on the database at a point in time (22th October 2008) had waited on the data base for allocation to an NHS dentist.

The key to the chart is:

SY –Selby York locality

CHARD –Craven and Harrogate locality
 HR – Hambleton and Richmondshire locality
 SWR – Scarborough Whitby Ryedale locality

A small number of patients may already be “registered” with a dentist but choose to be on the database while waiting to see if a practice they prefer has capacity.



5. Next Steps

This information has been produced to provide an example of the information templates which could be made available to the OSC.

The data is not published and has been put together from reports that the PCT receives to try and indicate how NHS dentistry is provided in the York area. It is not possible to provide information for York residents. Where data has been provided on a quarterly rather than monthly basis this is because this is how the PCT receives it.

The PCT is dependent on the activity data being made available to it by other organisations and the OSC should be aware that the PCT has no control over when it will be decided to publish the information. The data on activity is derived from contract information and it is usual for there to be a time delay of at least 2 months before the dental business service are confident that they have the majority of claims submitted by practices and publish the data.

The OSC are asked to confirm whether the information provided in the tables and charts will meet their needs should the PCT is able to provide the information in the tables and charts on a more consistent basis. Some variation to the information may be possible and the PCT would be happy to try and improve on it within the constraints already outlined above.