

---

## **Health Scrutiny Committee**

**12 February 2007**

### **Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services**

## **Dental Services in York**

### **Summary**

1. This report is to update members on NHS dental provision in the York area.

### **Background**

2. In October 2006 members considered a report which informed them about NHS dental provision in York. At that time there were 4170 people on the list awaiting assignment to a dental practice.
3. At the meeting of 4 January 2007 Denise Smith of North Yorkshire and York PCT provided an update to this information. She informed members that there were then around 3000 patients awaiting allocation to a dentist.
4. Members also heard that patients registering for a place were generally allocated within six months of first registering. Data on the total number of patients with a practice was no longer recorded as new contracts were based on numbers of treatments rather than numbers of people.
5. Dental practices agree with the PCT how many new patients they are able to accept each month.
6. Some dental practices left the NHS in March 2006 after the contracts were implemented, however since then only one practice has left.
7. Members agreed that they would keep a watching brief on the provision of dental services over the next three months in order to monitor the waiting times for allocation to an NHS dentist.

## **Consultation**

8. Denise Smith has agreed to provide regular updates for members and information will be provided at the meeting which outlines the position at the end of January 2007.

## **Options**

9. At this point members can note the progress on allocating patients to dentists in York and may consider how to use this information later in the year, as part of the work to draw the conclusions from the review.

## **Analysis**

10. It might be advisable to monitor the allocation of dental services for some time in order to decide if there are any aspects of this provision which requires further questions to be asked.

## **Corporate Priorities**

11. Relevant to Corporate Priority 7 – Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.

## **Implications**

12. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

## **Risk Management**

13. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

## **Recommendations**

14. Members are asked to note the comments from North Yorkshire and York PCT regarding the provision of NHS dental services in the York area and request a further update for the meeting of 2 April 2007.

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

**Contact details:**

**Author:**

Barbara Boyce  
Scrutiny Officer  
01904 551714  
barbara.boyce@york.gov.uk

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Suzan Hemingway  
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

**Report Approved**



**Date** 02.02.07

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *None*

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Annexes**

None

**Background Papers**

None