

Health Scrutiny Committee

7 July 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and 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.

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 before the end of the financial year.
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 can 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 available when patients moved on.
 - A report back on progress with commissioning a Sunday morning emergency dental clinic.

Consultation

6. This report is part of the ongoing consultation between Members and the various Health Trusts.
7. The Scrutiny Officer has been in regular contact with the Assistant Director; Corporate and Public Affairs at the Primary Care Trust and can now inform Members that Amanda Brown (Assistant Director of Commissioning and Service Development (PCT) will be attending the meeting to give Members an update on the provision of NHS Dental Services in York. This will cover current arrangements on the allocation of NHS dental provision; access and activity on the use of emergency dental services; future commissioning plans to meet existing and known need and progress on establishing new NHS provision.
8. Across the whole of the PCT area, the York and Selby areas remain as areas with comparatively long waiting times for NHS dental allocations for people registered with the PCT awaiting NHS dental care. There are a number of factors contributing to this, details of these will be outlined by Amanda Brown at the meeting.

Options

9. Members may wish to consider whether they should continue to receive future updates on Dental Services in York. If so, arrangements will need to be made for them to be included in the work plan.

Analysis

10. 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

11. 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

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

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

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to
- i. Note the report and the update from the PCT.
 - ii. Decide whether they would like to receive further updates on Dental Services in York.

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

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Report Approved



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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

None