
Health Scrutiny Committee

11th May 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 information requested at previous meetings held on 5th January 2009 and 2nd February 2009.

Background

2. Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee receive regular updates from NHS North Yorkshire and York (formerly North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust) regarding dental services in York.
3. At a meeting on 7th July 2008 Members requested that future updates be provided in writing so that they could form part of the published agenda. They also requested that written updates be provided in the form of a 'standard template' in order that data reported was presented in a manner that was easily interpreted.

Information Requested at the meeting held on 5th January 2009

4. At a meeting on 5th January 2009 Members expressed concern that a number of the charts presented to them had made it difficult to view trends. They therefore requested that the Assistant Director of Commissioning and Service Development at NHS North Yorkshire & York include the following information as part of the quarterly update to the Committee:
 - Information should relate to the Selby/York area only
 - The number of dentists in the York area
 - The number of new dentists in the York area
 - The number of dentists providing NHS treatment in the York area
 - Information on the number of residents who do not see a dentist at all
 - To investigate the possibility of showing the information on 'waiting times for patients still on the list' as a mean average over a length of time rather than at a specific point in time
5. NHS North Yorkshire & York have provided their next quarterly update and this is attached at Annex A to this report.

Information Requested at the meeting held on 2nd February 2009

6. At their meeting on 2nd February 2009 Members considered a scrutiny topic on 'Access to Dental Services', submitted by Councillor Moore. For reference purposes, the topic registration form is attached at Annex B to this report. After consideration the Committee decided to defer their decision on whether this topic should progress to review until they had received information on the following:
 - The next quarterly update from NHS North Yorkshire & York on dental services in York attached at Annex A to this report
 - Confirmation as to whether LINKs was intending to look at dental provision as part of their work plan
 - Further information on whether North Yorkshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee are intending to carry out a review in relation to access to dental services to determine whether a joint review could be an option
 - A briefing note regarding the arrangements that Doncaster PCT has put in place in respect of Units of Dental Activity (UDA). This is attached at Annex C to this report.
7. York LINK (Local Involvement Network) has recently held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) where voting took place on what items should be on its work plan. A representative of the LINK has confirmed that they will not be looking at dental provision as part of their work plan.
8. Discussions with the Health Scrutiny Officer at North Yorkshire County Council indicated that their Scrutiny of Health Committee does not intend to carry out a review on NHS dentistry at the present time. They do, however, intend to continue to monitor the situation in their area via regular reports to Committee. North Yorkshire County Council have elections in June this year, and the make up of the Committee and work plan priorities may therefore change.

Consultation

9. This report is part of ongoing consultation between Members and the various Health Trusts. The following have been consulted on the preparation of this report:
 - York LINK
 - NHS North Yorkshire & York
 - NHS Doncaster
10. In relation to the registered scrutiny topic on 'Access to Dental Services' the following were consulted at the time the feasibility report was prepared:
 - Portfolio holder for Housing & Adult Social Services (HASS)
 - Director of HASS
 - NHS North Yorkshire & York

11. The Assistant Director of Commissioning and Service Development at NHS North Yorkshire & York will attend today's meeting to answer any questions that Members may have on the information provided.

Options

12. Members may wish to consider:

- Whether they wish to make any further amendments to the type of information included within the standard report writing template
- Whether they wish to continue receiving quarterly updates on dental services in York from NHS North Yorkshire & York.
- Whether they wish to go ahead with the 'Access to Dental Services' Review topic submitted to the Committee by Councillor Moore and discussed at their meeting on 2nd February 2009.

Analysis

13. 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.
14. If Members should choose to undertake a review on 'Access to Dental Services' it is suggested that they wait until the new scrutiny structure is in place. This would enable them to form a small working group, comprised of some of the Committee Members to look at the topic. Any working group would report back to the Healthy City Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regular updates on progress. Should Members choose to go ahead with a review a draft remit is attached at Annex D to this report.

Corporate Priorities

15. 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

16. **Financial** – There is a small amount of funding available within the scrutiny budget to carry out reviews. There are no other known financial implications associated with this report however; implications may arise should the review be progressed.
17. **Human Resources** – There are no known human resources implications associated with this report.
18. There are no known equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

20. Members are asked to:

- (i) Note the report and the update from NHS North Yorkshire & York
- (ii) Decide whether they wish to amend/add to the type of information included in the standard reporting template
- (iii) Decide whether they wish to go ahead with the scrutiny topic on 'Access to Dental Services' put forward by Councillor Moore and initially discussed at the Health Scrutiny meeting on 2nd February 2009 and if so, agree a remit.

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

Contact Details

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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 A Quarterly update to Health Scrutiny Committee from NHS North Yorkshire & York in relation to dental services in York
Annex B Scrutiny Topic Registration Form – 'Access to Dental Services'
Annex C Briefing Note on Units of Dental Activity
Annex D Draft remit for proposed scrutiny topic