

Agenda No 5

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Committee	28th September 2005
Report Title	Provision of NHS Dentistry in Leamington Spa
Summary	The Committee to note the proposal by the South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust to provide NHS dentistry in Leamington Spa following the decision by the practice at 13 Euston Place to leave the NHS. Copy of the letter from the PCT attached together with a copy of a form that is being sent to all patients of the practice.
For further information please contact:	Alwin McGibbon Health Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 01926 412075 alwinmcgibbon@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No.
Background papers	None

Dear Member,

I am writing to inform you about a problem that is going to arise within a few days with regard to the provision of NHS dentistry in Leamington Spa. The practice at 13 Euston Place will be writing to all 8,000 of the registered adult patients shortly advising them that the practice is leaving the NHS and that they will be deregistered. The patients will have the options of staying on as a private patient, or having to find another dentist. The practice has to give them three months notice and so they will continue to be entitled to NHS treatment until November.

PCT staff have spent a lot of time with the practice trying to retain them in the NHS, even arranging with the Department of Health for them to receive a 17% pay award on top of this year's national award of 3.4%. Unfortunately, this has not been enough to allay their concerns about the future and they are determined to leave.

The PCT anticipated this eventuality and has made arrangements to cope with it. We plan to start two new NHS dentists, one in Leamington Town centre and the other in Whitnash, through international recruitment. They should be in place in November if successful at interview. We have also arranged additional capacity at the Bridge Street practice that we helped to fund two years ago. Urgent toothache cases will be seen without delay at the Access Centre in Brunswick, where we will if necessary employ a salaried GDP for routine work.

I expect that you will be contacted by patients concerned about this turn of events, but hope that you will be able to reassure them that we have the situation in hand and that those who want to transfer to another practice under NHS care will be able to do so.

This problem is a reflection of the national situation with regard to dentistry, which we will continue to monitor closely; I will keep you advised about any further significant developments.

Dr Ian McIntyre