

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee

Date of Committee 28 March 2007

Report Title Update from the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel

Summary This report provides an update of the situation with regards to access and provision of NHS dentistry in Warwickshire following the introduction of the new NHS dental contract on 1 April 2006.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers Final Report of the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel - 19 July 2006

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Cllr Boad (Chair of the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel)
Cllr Randev (Panel Member)
- Other Elected Members Cllr Jerry Roodhouse
Cllr Bob Stevens
Cllr Anne Forwood
Cllr Marion Haywood....
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal Sarah Duxbury.....
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers David Carter

- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Alwin McGibbon.....

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Agenda No

Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee - 28 March 2007.

Update from the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel

Report of the Performance and Development Directorate

Recommendation

- a) That the committee notes this update from the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel.
- b) That the committee requests a report from the PCT, in 6 months time, when the new NHS dental contract has been in operation for 1 year and its impact can be fully evaluated.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 19 July 2006, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel reconvene in six months time to update members on the situation with regards to access and provision of NHS dentistry in Warwickshire, including the implications of the relocation of Stratford Dental Clinic for special needs patients.
- 1.2 The Dentistry Scrutiny Panel includes Councillors Sarah Boad and Raj Randev. Councillor Sarah Boad chairs the Panel.
- 1.3 The attached briefing note details the findings of the Panel following a meeting they had on 24 January 2007 with the following NHS professionals:
 - John Taylor – Director of Primary and Integrated Care – Warwickshire PCT;
 - Ruth Washbrook – Dental Services Administration Manager – Warwickshire PCT;
 - and; Nick Ransford – Stratford Dental Clinic.

2. Recommendations

- a) That the committee notes this update from the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel.

- b) That the committee requests a report from the PCT, in 6 months time, when the new NHS dental contract has been in operation for 1 year and its impact can be fully evaluated.

DAVID CARTER
Performance and
Development

Shire Hall
Warwick

23rd February 2007

Meeting of the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel

24 January 2007

1. Present:

Cllr Sarah Boad (Chair)

Alwin McGibbon – Health Scrutiny Officer

Victoria Cook – Assistant to the Labour Group

Louise Denton – Assistant to the Liberal Democrat Group

John Taylor – Director of Primary and Integrated Care – Warwickshire PCT

Ruth Washbrook – Dental Services Administration Manager – Warwickshire PCT

Nick Ransford – Stratford Dental Clinic

2. Apologies:

Cllr Raj Randev

3. Key Messages:

- 3.1 The overall position with regards to the provision of NHS dentistry in Warwickshire is one of stability (see Appendix A for further information). The new dental contracts have enabled additional funding to be put into orthodontics.
- 3.2 The situation in Warwickshire is better than in many parts of the country – any person in Warwickshire that wants NHS dental treatment can receive it, although, some may have to travel to other parts of the county.
- 3.3 Access to NHS dentistry in Stratford-on-Avon, which had previously been highlighted as a concern, has improved with practices available in Wellesbourne and Henley-in-Arden. However, demand for NHS treatment is low in this area at present.
- 3.4 The demand for private dental treatment is increasing – more people are choosing to have dental treatment for cosmetic reasons.
- 3.5 There were a few technical difficulties with the data entry system for the first three months, and therefore activity data is only being recorded from the second half of the year.
- 3.6 The target for achieving UDAs (Units of Dental Activity) is on track although there are variations with some practices overachieving and others underachieving. The PCT are working with all practices to try and rectify these issues.
- 3.7 The PCT have agreed to adjust contracts in light of the first year's experience.

- 3.8 In Rugby, one of the NHS practices chose to withdraw from NHS dentistry in December 2006 resulting in the loss of 1.4 full-time equivalent dentists. The PCT are liaising with the local dental committee to provide cover in the mean time but the plan is to replace the lost contract with 2 full-time equivalents to ensure access is maintained in Rugby. The PCT have already received 3 approaches to tender for the contract.
- 3.9 With regards to the financial position of Warwickshire's NHS dental services, the PCT was initially projecting a £0.5million shortfall. However, this is likely to be largely reduced by the end of the financial year. The PCT's budget for next year (2007/08) is ring-fenced and is around £20million. Work is currently being undertaken to establish whether this amount is sufficient.
- 3.10 The new charging bands were discussed and it was discovered that there is an increase in the number of patients failing to attend appointments possibly because of the jump in the cost of treatment from a band 2 charge (£42.40) to a band 3 charge (£189). Additionally, some treatments covered in band 3 are cheaper if carried out privately. Many practices operate a policy where failure to show twice for an appointment means the practice will no longer treat you.
- 3.11 Despite the nature of the new NHS dental contract, which allows patients to see any NHS dentist providing there is an available appointment, patients are tending to stay with their original dentist.
- 3.12 Warwickshire PCT have not yet taken a stance on children only contracts – they are keeping their options open at present with the view that children only contracts may be required to enable ongoing provision and access for children. There is no suitable alternative yet.
- 3.13 With regards to out-of-hours provision, the current service is working well. In the North, there have only been two complaints and work is being undertaken to rectify these by ensuring that better information about the service is provided to the public.

4. Special Needs Dentistry in Stratford:

- 4.1 Nick Ransford reported that they had managed to design the room at Stratford Hospital to include a hoist – originally, this had not been thought possible. This means that fewer patients have had to travel to Leamington Rehab Centre for treatment.
- 4.2 In total, 33 patients from the Stratford area had to travel to Leamington between April and December 2006. These patients have accepted the need to travel as many of them had to do so before anyway and the surgery in Leamington is now of a much higher quality. Transport has not been an issue as most patients live in supported care with transport provided. The service from Warwickshire Ambulance can be hit and miss – patients have occasionally been picked up late for an appointment and have had to wait a significant amount of time.

- 4.3 The Panel discussed the replacement of Dr Ian McIntyre, Consultant in Dental Public Health, who retired last summer. At the moment there are no plans to fill the vacancy, which is of some concern to the Panel. Nick Ransford stressed the benefits of having a dedicated dental professional to represent special needs dentistry at the policy making level, which can often be forgotten about.

Warwickshire PCT

The NHS Dental Contract

*Update Report for the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel
24th January 2007*

Presenting: J Taylor
R Washbrook
N Ransford

**John Taylor
Director of Primary
& Integrated Care
January 2007**

1. Introduction

The Dentistry Scrutiny Panel in its report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2006 made the following points:

- that the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel reconvenes in 12 months time to reassess the provision of, and access to, NHS dentistry in Warwickshire
- that the implications of the re-location of Stratford Dental Clinic for special needs patients be reported to the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel in 12 months time

The purpose of this interim update is to give the panel an understanding of the present position regarding NHS dentistry in Warwickshire.

2. The NHS Dental Contract & Access to NHS Dentistry

The period leading up to the introduction of the new contract saw several concerns being raised regarding the implications for the future. These have been discussed by the Panel in its previous meetings.

Since the start of the new contract the biggest issues have been more of a technical nature. There have been significant problems around getting activity data into the national system, particularly in the first quarter of the year. This meant that it was difficult to have an understanding of how the contract was progressing both for the PCT and the Dentists.

These issues have been resolved and the PCT in undertaking contract review meetings has been using activity data from the second half of the year.

The overall position has proven to be one of stability. Virtually all contracts are being maintained with only a few notable exemptions, that is some contracts over or under performing.

The PCT has also had to monitor the impact of the new patient charges system. The financial year commenced with a budget based on a calculated amount of patient charges income. To date there is on average a 10% shortfall in the income received. This is being closely monitored and in the third quarter of the year there is evidence that the rate of income receipts is increasing.

During the year the PCT has been closely working with both Practices and the Local Dental Committee to continue the good working relationships and to manage the cut and thrust of managing the contracts in the light of changing circumstances. This has meant that there has been a significant reduction in the number of contracts in dispute to a total of 4. These 4 relate to a dispute as to the type of contract rather than its value or activity levels.

3. Specific Contract / Access Issues

The Panel has previously noted that 15 dentists did not sign up with the new contract. As noted at the time arrangements had been put in hand to ensure continued access to NHS Dentistry for example the new Practice at Shipton is now open.

The PCT has also completed its contract negotiations previously flagged regarding increasing access to Orthodontic Dentistry with new capacity for the North and Rugby areas available from a Practice at Hinckley and extra capacity in the South.

The Panel should also note that a Practice in Rugby decided to change its position and leave the NHS in December. In overall terms the loss of this 1.4 equivalent Dentist Practice means that the Rugby area has the poorest access rate for NHS Dentistry. In response the PCT has agreed with the Local Dental Committee that a tender exercise is to be undertaken with the objective of putting into place a minimum of a 2 dentist practice. The Panel is asked to note that prior to the formal exercise the PCT has already received 3 expressions of interest to open a new practice.

4. Special Needs Dentistry Stratford / Leamington

Nick Ransford is to provide a verbal update for the Panel.

John Taylor
Director of Primary & Integrated Care