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Our ref: HH/SMC

15 March 2019

Dear Emma,

RE: Urgent Dental Services in Leeds and across West Yorkshire

You will no doubt recall attending the West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (the JHOSC) to discuss Access to Dental Services on 30 July 2018.

The minutes from the JHOSC meeting specifically highlight that, ‘...*the Joint Committee was assured that the refocus of access to dentistry was not “a service reconfiguration” and that NHS England would not miss the opportunity to engage with scrutiny on such matters.*’

You will also recall my subsequent letter, dated 14 August 2018, where I highlighted I had become aware of ‘...*a communications and engagement plan produced by NHS England regarding what was described as ‘Urgent and unplanned dental care reconfiguration in Yorkshire and the Humber’.*

In that letter I asked that you clarify the following points:

- The exact nature of any ‘reconfiguration’ of urgent and unplanned dental care services in Yorkshire and the Humber – but specifically across West Yorkshire and Harrogate.
- What level of public and stakeholder engagement has or is planned to take place in relation to the ‘reconfiguration of services’?
- Local Authorities (and specifically Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees) not being identified on NHS England’s list of stakeholders. What assurances can you provide that NHS England recognises its responsibilities and duties to engage with relevant local authorities and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees? Please provide details of NHS England’s plans in this regard relating to urgent and unplanned dental care services.

Your response, received in early October 2018, was shared with all members of the JHOSC; however it does not address any of these specific queries / matters.

Cont./

It is therefore very regrettable that I have become aware of planned changes to the urgent dental services in Leeds and across West Yorkshire. Please see the Yorkshire Evening Post article, 'Will it be harder to see an emergency out-of-hours NHS dentist in Leeds and Wakefield?', published on 13 March 2019 (accessible through the following link: <https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/will-it-be-harder-to-see-an-emergency-out-of-hours-nhs-dentist-in-leeds-and-wakefield-1-9648634>)

The article not only sets out a change in service provider, but also a reduction / change to the location of services in Leeds and elsewhere in West Yorkshire, which are due to come into effect from 1 April 2019.

As such, please provide the following details as a matter of urgency:

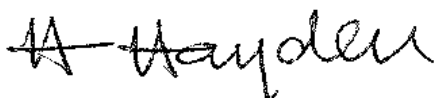
- Details of all the changes to urgent dental care services in Leeds, due to come into effect from 1 April 2019.
- Details of all the changes to urgent dental care services across the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership, due to come into effect from 1 April 2019.
- A copy of the 'Urgent and unplanned dental care reconfiguration in Yorkshire and the Humber' communications and engagement plan, produced by NHS England; and confirmation of the status of this document.
- Details of any stakeholder engagement or consultation undertaken by NHS England regarding proposed changes to urgent dental care services in Leeds and across the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership.

It is my intention to include this matter on the agenda for consideration by the JHOSC at its next meeting and require your attendance. The meeting is scheduled to take place at County Hall, Wakefield on 8 April 2019, commencing at 10:30am. Please confirm your attendance.

Please be aware that I intend to draw this matter to the attention of all Health Scrutiny Chairs across Yorkshire and Humber; should there be any specific implications for other local areas they may wish to consider. As such, please also be aware that consideration of this matter at the above JHOSC meeting is not intended to preclude any local discussions at any of the constituent local authorities represented on the JHOSC; nor any other relevant local health overview and scrutiny committee across Yorkshire and the Humber.

As a matter of urgency, I look forward to receiving the information requested, along with confirmation of your attendance at the above meeting.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Helen Hayden

Chair, Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles), Leeds City Council and Chair, West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

cc All members of the Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles), Leeds City Council

All members of the West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee