

Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 March 2017

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Access to NHS Dental Services

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Currently, accessing routine NHS dental services is difficult for some people in West Yorkshire, particularly in Bradford and north Kirklees. NHS England also report that demand for unscheduled dental care (UDC) in West Yorkshire is rising year on year, an indication that an increasing number of people have to access emergency dental services because they cannot register with an NHS dentist. This has resulted in a UDC overspend of £1.5m across West Yorkshire (2014/15). UDC services are due to be re-contracted in 2017 ¹.
2. At its previous meeting in January 2017, the West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (WY JHOSC) agreed terms of reference to undertake an inquiry around 'Access to NHS Dental Services'. The agreed terms of reference are attached at Appendix 1.
3. To assist the JHOSC consider the issues around Access to NHS Dental Services, specific contributions have been requested from:
 - Local HealthWatch (details attached at Appendix 2)
 - NHS England (details attached at Appendix 3)
4. Other contributions from key stakeholders, such as NHS 111 and Local Care Direct (the provider of unscheduled NHS dental care (UDC) in West Yorkshire), may also be presented at the meeting

¹ Report of NHS England – North (Yorkshire and Humber) to the meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 06 October 2016: Dental Commissioning Update
<https://bradford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s11059/Hlt6OctDocM.pdf>

Recommendations

5. That the Joint Committee considers the details appended to this report and provided / discussed at the meeting, and determines any further scrutiny activity and/or recommendations in relation to its inquiry into Access to NHS Dental Services.

Background documents²

6. None.

² The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.