

**Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support**

**Report to West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: 30th July 2018**

**Subject: Access to Dentistry**

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

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to introduce an update from NHS England regarding access to dentistry across West Yorkshire.

**Background**

2. In March 2017, the Joint Committee considered a range of information and contributions in relation to access to NHS dental services across West Yorkshire – as requested by scrutiny members from Bradford and Kirklees.
3. At that time, it was reported that accessing routine NHS dental services was difficult for some people in West Yorkshire, particularly in Bradford and north Kirklees. NHS England also reported that demand for unscheduled dental care (UDC) in West Yorkshire had been 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 had resulted in a UDC overspend of £1.5m across West Yorkshire in 2014/15.
4. It was reported that UDC services were due to be re-contracted in 2017 <sup>1</sup>.

**Summary of main issues**

5. A detailed update report from NHS England on the development of dental services across West Yorkshire will be provided in advance of the meeting. This is likely to include the following matters:

<sup>1</sup> 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>

### Access

6. NHS England (Yorkshire & the Humber) has completed a review of the availability of access to dental services and developed a strategy to improve this across the region.
7. Additional funding has been identified to support the commissioning of an increase in primary care capacity in 20 constituencies; 7 of which are in West Yorkshire. Dental practices in these areas have agreed to offer additional appointments to new patients commencing in July 2018. This approach will be reviewed in early 2019.
8. It has been agreed that, as funds become available, the Starting Well Core offer (currently in place in Wakefield) can be implemented across the region. The purpose of this scheme is to encourage practices to accept more children into their service and to spend time with them encouraging tooth brushing, improving diets and reducing sugar intake. NHS England (Yorkshire and the Humber) will work with local dental networks to assist in the implementation of this scheme with local practices.

### Urgent Care

9. NHS 111 services are currently being procured – led by Greater Huddersfield CCG on behalf of Yorkshire and the Humber – to ensure a new service is in place from 1 April 2019. The call handling element of the dental pathway is included in this procurement.
10. NHS England is leading a procurement to secure services for call handling and urgent treatment provision. It will ensure that providers can deliver a model to meet the demands for urgent dental care treatment across the locality and:
  - has opening hours that fit with demand, i.e. this could see opening times of 8.00am-12pm and 4pm to 10pm, and 10am-2pm on a weekend, for example.
  - has a number of clinics within the three STP areas to ensure equity of access;
  - can provide the caller with a timed appointment;
  - clinically assesses in the region of 75% of calls’
  - works in partnership with other providers across the urgent care system;
  - implements a minimum dataset, as agreed by the overarching urgent care system management boards.;
  - encourages all patients seen to source a regular dentist.
11. This service will be in place from 1 April 2019.
12. Appropriate NHS representatives have been invited to the meeting to discuss the details presented and address questions from members of the Joint Committee.

### **Recommendations**

13. That the West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the details presented in this report and associated appendices, and agrees any specific scrutiny actions and/or future activity.

### **Background documents<sup>2</sup>**

14. None.

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.