

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

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)**

**Date: 22 October 2019**

**Subject: Leeds Community Dental Services**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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

**1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce further details from Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust regarding the outcome of its public engagement and consultation on the future delivery of Community Dental Services and the proposed next steps.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The Community Dental Service (CDS) provides NHS dental care for children and adults who have dental treatment needs which cannot be met in a general dental practice. The majority of patients have physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, medical, emotional or social impairment, or more often a combination of these factors.
- 2.2 To meet the individual treatment needs of each patient the Community Dental Service provides personalised care plans and oral health education as well as general anaesthetic and sedation services. To make the service fully accessible facilities include:
- Wheelchair accessible clinics
  - Hoists
  - Specialist dental chair for wheelchair users
  - Loop systems
  - Interpreting services
  - Activity and sensory packs
  - Social story boards with Makaton symbols
- 2.3 In early April 2019. Members of the previous Scrutiny Board were advised of Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust's plans to fundamentally review service

delivery arrangements for Community Dental Services – following the award of the contract from NHS England. This also followed previous changes in 2017/18, which saw services move from Seacroft Clinic to the Reginald Centre.

- 2.4 At its meeting in June 2019, the Scrutiny Board received details of the preferred option for the future delivery to Community Dental Services in Leeds and Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust's plans for public engagement and consultation – including a targeted mailshot to 2,000 patients (or parents/carers) and a series of face-to-face engagement events.
- 2.5 At that time, the Scrutiny Board highlighted a number of issues, including:
- Concerns that the consultation period was only intended to take place for 6 weeks, rather than the recommended 12 weeks. The Board requested that the consultation period be extended.
  - Concern that the proposed 3-base model may not sufficiently meet the needs of the population, particularly given the number of facilities for specialist dental services in other major cities with similar populations to Leeds. More information on the levels of referral to specialist services compared to other major cities was requested.
  - Concern that the proposed reduction in the number of sites would cause greater difficulty and expense to patients travelling to appointments, particularly for those with additional needs.
  - The impact of the proposed changes on the Climate Emergency should be considered as part of the decision making process.

### **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The public engagement and consultation period was extended beyond the original date of 26 July 2019, and closed on 6 September 2019.
- 3.2 An update report from Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust will be provided in advance of the meeting on the outcome of its public engagement and consultation on the future delivery of services and the proposed next steps.
- 3.3 Representatives from Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (service providers) and NHS England (service commissioners) have been invited to attend the meeting to present the report, help members consider the information in more detail and address any specific questions from the Scrutiny Board.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 The information provided in this report and associated appendices provide an update on matters previously considered by the Scrutiny Board and relates to services commissioned and provided by external organisations.
- 4.1.2 Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust undertook specific public engagement and consultation – including a targeted mailshot to 2,000 patients (or parents/carers) and a series of face-to-face engagement events. Public consultation closed on 6 September 2019.

## **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that, where appropriate, all work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will ‘...review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council’s Equality and Diversity Scheme’. However, the information provided in this report largely relates to external organisations, which may be subject to other considerations relating to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- 4.2.2 Matters set out in the Council’s Equality and Diversity Scheme may need to be taken into account if any additional scrutiny activity is deemed appropriate.

## **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council ambitions and objectives.
- 4.3.2 While the subject of this report relates to services commissioned and provided by external organisations, the services are provided in the context of Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which supports the overall ambitions of the Best Council Plan.

### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.3 The Scrutiny Board previously highlighted the impact of the proposed changes on the Climate Emergency should be considered as part of the decision making process.

## **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (LCH) was awarded a 5-year contract for the provision of Community Dental Service (CDS) in October 2018. NHS England is the service commissioner.
- 4.4.2 The Scrutiny Board has previously been advised that the new specification must be implemented in full by October 2019 and the service is currently in transition, moving to the new model.
- 4.4.3 The Scrutiny Board has also been previously advised that the new contract poses challenges for LCH in terms of adhering to the requirements of the national CDS specification within the contract value. Additional quality improvements aimed at benefiting patients include domiciliary care and intravenous sedation which are clear.
- 4.4.4 NHS England agreed there was an opportunity for LCH to review the estate and consider sites for closure, which will ensure the enhanced service is deliverable within the cost envelope.

## **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

- 4.5.1 Community Dental Service (CDS) in Leeds are subject to a national specification and the Scrutiny Board has previously been advised that the new specification must be implemented in full by October 2019.
- 4.5.2 Any specific matters may need to be taken into account if any additional scrutiny activity is deemed appropriate and if any specific recommendations are being considered

## **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 The details in this report relates to external organisations, which may be subject to other considerations relating to risk management. Specific matters may need to be taken into account if any additional scrutiny activity is deemed appropriate.

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 This report introduces further details from Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust regarding the outcome of its public engagement and consultation on the future delivery of Community Dental Services. It also introduces the proposed next steps.
- 5.2 This report provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to consider and comment on the information provided; and identify any additional actions and/or matters that may require further scrutiny input or activity.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) is asked to: .
  - (a) Consider and comment on the information provided by Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and NHS England and associated with the outcome of the public engagement and consultation on the future delivery of Community Dental Services and the proposed next steps.
  - (b) Identify any additional actions and/or matters that may require further scrutiny input or activity.

## **4. Background papers<sup>1</sup>**

- 4.1 None used

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<sup>1</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.