

Report of Head of Democratic Services

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

Date: 15th September 2020

Subject: Impact of Covid-19 on accessing NHS dental services in Leeds

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	
Has consultation been carried out?	<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
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 At the request of the Scrutiny Board, arrangements have been made for Members to be briefed on the impact that Covid-19 has had with regard to accessing local NHS dental services and how NHS England – Yorkshire and the Humber is continuing to support dentistry to resume NHS dental services safely and effectively and in accordance with advice set out by the Chief Dental Officer.

2. Background information

- 2.1. During the Scrutiny Board's meeting on 23rd June 2020, Members considered a report of the Council's Chief Executive to the Executive Board on 19th May 2020 setting out the ongoing progress made by the council working with partners and communities in response to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this report, information was provided regarding the impact on dentistry at that stage which included the following:
- *Nationally, routine dental appointments are not taking place and patients in need of urgent dental care should not visit (i.e. walk in to) their regular NHS dentist, nor should they visit A&E. However there has been growing concern regarding patients' ability to access to urgent dental care.*
 - *In early May 2020, NHS England issued a stakeholder briefing that set out that all NHS Dental practices remain open and accessible to patients; in order to provide urgent telephone advice and a triage service – referred to as a Triple A service*

(Advise, Analgesia, Antibiotics). The briefing also sets out that NHS 111 is also providing this service to patients as an alternative to NHS dental practices and Out of Hours.

- *In line with national guidance, dentists will clinically assess patients' needs over the phone. If a patient is assessed as needing a face-to-face appointment at a local centre, they will be advised on what to do by the dentist who will make the necessary arrangements.*
- *It is also clear that the Triple A service should be provided to all patients, whether or not they have accessed a regular NHS dentist.*
- *In Leeds, Urgent Dental Care is accessed via NHS 111. Treatment is provided 7days per week, 8am – 8pm. Additional Urgent Dental Care capacity is being created across Leeds that will allow triaged patients to access urgent dental care as outlined above.*
- *Subject to the availability of enhanced PPE, Urgent Dental Care Centres are being established in a minimum of 10 locations across Leeds*

2.2 The Scrutiny Board had requested that representatives of NHS England – Yorkshire and the Humber attend a future meeting to brief the Scrutiny Board in more detail on the impact that Covid-19 has had with regard to accessing local NHS dental services and how they are supporting dentistry to resume NHS dental services safely and effectively and in accordance with advice set out by the Chief Dental Officer.

3. Main issues

3.1 The Head of Co-Commissioning (Yorkshire & Humber) at NHS England has provided the attached briefing paper for the Board's consideration which briefly sets out the current position and next steps regarding the recovery of NHS Primary Care Dentistry.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1. Consultation and engagement

4.4.1 The Head of Co-Commissioning (Yorkshire & Humber) at NHS England will be joining today's meeting to address questions from Board Members, along with the Dental Network Chair.

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'.

4.2.2 The Scrutiny Board may therefore wish to explore any specific Equality and Diversity issues relating to this matter.

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

- 4.3.1. The Scrutiny Board may wish to consider any specific climate emergency or sustainability issues relating to this matter.

4.4. Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The Scrutiny Board may wish to consider any specific resource, procurement or value for money matters associated with this matter.

4.5. Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1. This report has no specific legal implications.

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. The Scrutiny Board had requested that representatives of NHS England – Yorkshire and the Humber attend a future meeting to brief the Scrutiny Board in more detail on the impact that Covid-19 has had with regard to accessing local NHS dental services and how they are supporting dentistry to resume NHS dental services safely and effectively and in accordance with advice set out by the Chief Dental Officer.
- 5.2 The Head of Co-Commissioning (Yorkshire & Humber) at NHS England has provided the attached briefing paper for the Board's consideration which briefly sets out the current position and next steps regarding the recovery of NHS Primary Care Dentistry and will be joining today's meeting to address questions from Board Members, along with the Dental Network Chair.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and comment on the information provided in the attached briefing paper and during the meeting itself; identifying any additional actions and/or matters that may require further scrutiny input or activity.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1. None.

¹ 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.