

Access to local NHS dental services – Working group summary note

Date: 15th March 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

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

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- Dentistry has been a longstanding area of interest to the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board in recognition that oral health is integral to general health and quality of life.
- Having engaged with NHS England back in September 2020 to consider the initial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the provision and accessibility of local dental services, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board expressed a wish to undertake further scrutiny work to understand the current position surrounding access to local NHS dental services from the perspective of primary, community and secondary care services, including urgent dental care services.
- In undertaking this work, the Scrutiny Board agreed to hold a working group meeting on 25th February 2022, to which all Board Members were invited to attend. Invitations were also extended to representatives from NHS England & NHS Improvement; Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust; Leeds Dental Institute; and Healthwatch Leeds.
- The purpose of this report is to present a summary note of the main issues arising from the working group's discussion, including proposed recommendations, for the consideration and formal ratification of the full Scrutiny Board.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) is asked to consider the summary of main issues arising from the working group's discussion on 25th February 2022, including proposed recommendations, for formal ratification.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. Having engaged with NHS England back in September 2020 to consider the initial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the provision and accessibility of local dental services, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board expressed a wish to undertake further scrutiny work to understand the current position surrounding access to local NHS dental services from the perspective of primary, community and secondary care services, including urgent dental care services.
2. The Scrutiny Board agreed to hold a working group meeting on 25th February 2022 to undertake this work and extended an invitation to representatives from NHS England & NHS Improvement; Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust; Leeds Dental Institute; and Healthwatch Leeds.
3. A summary of the main issues arising from the working group's discussion, including proposed recommendations, will be shared with Board Members in readiness for today's meeting so that the content and proposed recommendations can be formally ratified by the full Scrutiny Board.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

4. The Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles) is asked to consider the summary of main issues arising from the working group's discussion on 25th February 2022, including proposed recommendations for formal ratification.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

5. Representatives from NHS England & NHS Improvement; Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust; Leeds Dental Institute; and Healthwatch Leeds were invited to contribute to the working group meeting on 25th February 2022. Further details of the individuals who participated in the working group meeting are set out in the summary note.

What are the resource implications?

6. Any related resource implications will be reflected within the working group summary note.

What are the legal implications?

7. This report has no specific legal implications.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

8. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

9. 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 sets out the ambition that Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest.

Appendices

10. Appendix 1 (*to follow*) - Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board. Access to local NHS Dental Services - Working Group Summary (February 2022).

Background papers

11. None.