

# Access to non-urgent primary and secondary care provision

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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

## Brief summary

- The Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board agreed to theme its February 2025 meeting around access to non-urgent primary and secondary care provision, with particular focus given to three key areas of interest around access to dentistry; access to General Practice; and elective care treatment.
- Briefing papers setting out the current position and existing challenges/opportunities relating to these key areas have therefore been provided by the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), the Leeds Health and Care Partnership and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust for the Scrutiny Board's attention and are appended to this report.

## Recommendations

Members are requested to consider and provide any comment on the information appended to this report as well as determining what, if any, further scrutiny work it may wish to undertake.

## What is this report about?

- 1 The Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board agreed to theme its February 2025 meeting around access to non-urgent primary and secondary care provision, with particular focus given to the following key areas of interest:

### Dentistry

- 2 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.
- 3 On 1 April 2023, the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) received the delegation of commissioning responsibility for dental services from NHS England. During November 2023, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board held a working group meeting with representatives from the West Yorkshire ICB and other contributors representing the view of dental providers, practitioners and patients to consider the provision of dentistry at that stage, with the findings reported back to the full Scrutiny Board in January 2024.
- 4 A further update report has now been provided by the West Yorkshire ICB in relation to dental services in Leeds, providing a focus on services and the local and national direction for the future of NHS dentistry (see Appendix 1).

### Access to General Practice

- 5 In May 2023, NHS England published the Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care which signalled two key ambitions:
  - Tackle the 8am rush and reduce the number of people struggling to contact their practice.
  - Patients to know on the day they contact their practice how their request will be managed
- 6 During its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board considered a briefing paper by the Leeds Health and Care Partnership that gave an overview of the Primary Care Access Recovery Plan, its implementation within Leeds and a summary of the activity taking place across Leeds primary care providers.
- 7 Appended to this report is a further briefing paper by the Leeds Health and Care Partnership that updates the Scrutiny Board on progress in delivering aspects of the Primary Care Access Recovery Plan and provides further national and local context on general practice in Leeds (see Appendix 2).

### Elective Care

- 8 Elective care is generally referred to in relation to 'secondary' care following a referral from primary care or self-presentation by patients to an Accident and Emergency department or other self-referral pathway. While elective care in health is provided across the system – by community providers, the independent sector and the mental health trust, a specific briefing paper has been provided to the Scrutiny Board that considers (secondary and tertiary) elective care provided by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (see Appendix 3).

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 9 The Scrutiny Board is keen to explore the local position surrounding access to non-urgent primary and secondary care provision in Leeds, with particular focus on access to dentistry; access to General Practice; and elective care treatment. The appended information sets out the current position and existing challenges/opportunities relating to these key areas to assist the Board in determining what, if any, further scrutiny work it may wish to undertake.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

10 Providing the best care in the right place at the right time is a key priority set out within the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Being Strategy and includes improving access to key services like GPs and dental care and delivering timely elective care treatment to patients.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

11 Senior representatives from West Yorkshire ICB, the Leeds Health and Care Partnership and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will be attending the Scrutiny Board's meeting to present the appended reports and contribute to the Board's discussion.

12 The appended reports will reflect any relevant consultation and engagement processes that have informed the content of the information provided.

## What are the resource implications?

13 Details of any related resource implications will be captured within the appended information.

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

14 Details of any related risk management implications will be captured within the appended information.

## What are the legal implications?

15 This report has no specific legal implications.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 – An update report from the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) in relation to dental services in Leeds and the local and national direction for the future of NHS dentistry.
- Appendix 2 – A briefing paper from the Leeds Health and Care Partnership on access to General Practice.
- Appendix 3 – A briefing paper from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on elective care treatment.

## Background papers

- None.