

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Subject:	Update on dentistry in Portsmouth
Date of meeting:	17 th July 2024
Report lead:	Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health, Portsmouth City Council
Author	Simon Cooper, Director of Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry (POD), NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

1.1 Full Council resolution on 19th March 2024, attached as Appendix 1.

2. Purpose

2.1 To provide an update on work to address the ongoing shortage of NHS dental provision in Portsmouth, including through interim solutions.

3. Information Requested

3.1 Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board received delegated responsibility for dentistry, pharmacy and optometry in July 2022. The local authority retains their statutory responsibilities for surveillance and improvement of oral health of our population.

3.2 Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) continue to improve health outcomes for their population and delegation is allowing decisions to be taken as close as possible to residents. Partners are working across Health and Public Health to ensure residents experience high quality care, reducing health inequalities and barriers to care. Prevention continues to be a priority alongside better access to care and advice.

3.3 Partners are working towards improving access to dental services, and reducing existing health inequalities which exist in the city, supported by the Dentaaid mobile

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dental service. An extended service has been commissioned to provide additional clinics from a static site in the city. There are a range of challenges which need to be overcome to make significant improvements; this paper provides an overview of contractual challenges, the opportunities available with new arrangements coming into place, as a result of delegation.

4. Contracting

- 4.1 Primary dental care is commissioned as units of dental activity (UDAs) with the number of UDAs awarded to each course of treatment dependent upon the treatment delivered. More complex dental treatments attract and utilise more UDAs.
- 4.2 The model of existing primary dental care was introduced in 2006 when the General Dental Services (GDS) Contract and Personal Dental Services (PDS) Agreement were introduced. Prior to this a dental practice could set up where they wished and deliver as much or as little NHS care as they chose. The current dental contract framework and legislation no longer allow practices to set up or provide as much as they wish; for existing practices this is limited to their contracted activity and new NHS practices can only be established after an open procurement process.
- 4.3 The Recover and Reform NHS Dentistry Policy Paper initiates schemes to support the future of dentistry, including: £28 minimum UDA uplift, New Patient Premium, Golden Hello and the Smile for life programme.

5. New procurement

- 5.1 Earlier this year procurement was undertaken via a rapid process to increase delivery from established local practices.
- 5.2 The mobile dental units have been commissioned to support access in areas of health inequality, and additional activity has recently been commissioned.
- 5.3 Additional UDAs have been commissioned to increase patient access and support dental providers on a temporary basis for 2 years, while further procurement takes place.

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5.4 NHS England have advised that the implementation of the minimum UDA value of £28 from March 2024. Portsmouth practices currently contracted below this value will benefit from this uplift.

6. Routine and urgent care priorities

6.1 For routine care, details of practices providing NHS dental care can be found on: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist> or by ringing 111 who will provide details of local dental practices providing NHS care, including access to the mobile dental units.

6.2 Should any patient need urgent dental care, or they have been able to access temporary urgent care and still require further treatment to stabilise their oral health, or need dental treatment before undergoing certain medical or surgical procedures, or they are a Looked After Child or care home resident, they will be able to access additional hours sessions to receive treatment.

7. National and regional actions

7.1 Earlier this year there was an announcement of planned changes to the NHS dental contract with the second phase now implemented.

7.2 In addition, the Government is also considering moving forward with water fluoridation, a public health initiative the Chief Dental Officer [strongly supports](#). As the robust international evidence shows, water fluoridation is another public health tool that can reduce the incidence of tooth decay amongst adults and children – saving potentially thousands of teeth and improving oral health inequality in the process.

8. Local actions

8.1 We know in Portsmouth recruitment and retention has had more of an impact than some other parts of the country. We anticipate the golden hello scheme will provide some incentive to encourage workforce into the area.

8.2 The ICB is undergoing organisational redesign and the Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental team are expected to be in place within the new structure by the Autumn of this year.

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- 8.3 In June 2022 a Dental Summit was held in Portsmouth, and two steering groups were initiated, these were the Centre for Dental Development and Oral Health Promotion. As a result of the task and finish groups a local Oral Health Promotion programme has been commissioned by Public Health in Portsmouth City Council.
- 8.4 The University of Portsmouth Dental Academy and NHS Solent Special Care Dental Service have been commissioned to undertake outreach to early years settings and primary schools, targeting areas of social deprivation. They are also offering outreach into care homes and our homeless population in the city. This outreach provides guidance on how to brush teeth and other oral health promotion themes such as a healthy diet. The University's Dental Academy and Solent Special Care Dental Service began rolling out this service offer to schools and early years settings in Portsmouth in the Spring term of this year.
- 8.5 Dentistry: Big Conversation has taken place across stakeholders within Hampshire and Isle of Wight. There have been three sub-groups set up as a result; these groups are focussing on access, health inequalities and workforce. These groups have been productive and as a result initiatives are being considered. The ICB are also planning further opportunities for engagement with the dental stakeholders in the Autumn.
- 8.6 The ICB has a dental strategy, which sets out the priorities in dentistry and the transformation schemes which will enable change.

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Signed by Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Notice of Motion, 19th March 2024

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location