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| <b>Purpose:</b>      | An update on oral health and dental commissioning in Portsmouth   |
| <b>Prepared for:</b> | Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP)  |
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| <b>Author:</b>       | <p>Prepared by Dr Janet Maxwell, Portsmouth Director of Public Health.</p> <p>Oral Health lead: Lee Loveless (Advanced Health Improvement Practitioner, Portsmouth City Council)</p> <p>Sources of information: Public Health England<br/>NHS England<br/>NHS Business Services Authority</p> |

## 1.0 Introduction

This paper provides an update on:

- Dental health and dental attendance in Portsmouth
- The dental commissioning arrangements within the new health system which were established on 1 April 2013 and the roles of the different organisations in the system.
- Dental health promotion programmes commissioned by Portsmouth City Council
- Dental services commissioned by NHS England

## 2.0 Oral health and dental attendance in Portsmouth

**2.1** In the 2013 survey of 3-year-olds, 9% (12% in England) of children had experience of dental decay and 7% (11% in England) had untreated decay.

**2.2** In the 2012 survey of 5-year-olds, 25% (28% in England) had experience of dental decay of which 21% (25% in England) had untreated decay.

**2.3** In the 2009 survey of 12-year-olds, 41% (33% in England) of those examined had experience of dental decay and 25% (18% in England) had untreated decay.



**2.4** Around 65% of children attended the dentist in the last 12 months up to March 2014 (68% for England). This figure has remained relatively unchanged in the last five years.

**2.5** Around 47% (51% for England) of adult patients attended the dentist in the last 12 months up to March 2014.

### **3.0 Roles of organisations in dental commissioning in Portsmouth (from April 2013)**

#### **3.1 Portsmouth City Council**

Commissioning dental public health programmes are the responsibility of Portsmouth City Council. A dental epidemiology programme (surveys involving dental examinations of selected groups) is commissioned from Solent NHS Trust (cost about £45,000). Dental health improvement programmes are commissioned from Solent NHS Trust and the University of Portsmouth Dental Academy (total cost about £200,000). These include programmes directed at all children as well as intensive initiatives targeted at those with the highest need. Local dental public health teams from Public Health England provide advice and support to local Councils to ensure that the programmes are based on best available evidence and in line with the needs of the population.,

#### **3.2 Public Health England (PHE)**

Public Health England is a national organisation which supports all stakeholders, including local authorities and NHS England, with public health, which includes specialist dental public health, advice and support. PHE leads the dental epidemiology programme at national level. Locally, PHE provides quality assurance and support to the process working with local Councils.

#### **3.3 NHS England**

NHS England is a national organisation which commissions primary care services, including dental services. NHS England's Wessex office commissions dental services for Portsmouth residents from "high street" dentists, hospitals and dental specialists. Local PHE dental public health teams provide information and support to ensure that the services meet the needs/demand of local populations.

#### **3.4 Local Dental Network (part of NHS England)**

The Local Dental Network is a forum which brings together NHS England staff, the dental public health team from PHE and local dental clinicians to provide dental commissioning advice to NHS England. This is a key feature of the health system which was established in April 2013 and is designed to put clinical advice at the heart of dental commissioning. The

current clinical chair of the Wessex Local Dental Network is a Portsmouth dentist, Dr John Weld.

### **3.5 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Dental Committee (LDC)**

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight LDC represents local dentists across the 2 areas, including Portsmouth dentists. It is a body paid for by local dentists to represent their views at local meetings. The LDC has a statutory right to be consulted on issues relating to dentistry. They do not have any commissioning responsibilities but provide a point of contact for local organisations to communicate with the local dental clinical community. They are keen to work with Portsmouth City Council and NHS England to ensure that local patients get a high quality of care.

## **4.0 Dental survey programme – commissioned by Portsmouth City Council**

PHE lead the national dental intelligence programme which involves an annual dental health survey. PHE develops a standard protocol and provides training for dental teams across the country. This standardisation ensures that the data is comparable across the country. The responsibility for commissioning the survey locally lies with local councils. Portsmouth City Council commissions the annual surveys for Portsmouth. An annual survey of 5-year-old children is carried out every 2 years to update the indicator on the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Other surveys in the past include 12-year-old children, 3-year-old children and special care children. A survey of Year 1 children is currently underway. A survey of older people is planned for 2015-16.

## **5.0 Dental health promotion programmes – commissioned by Portsmouth City Council**

**5.1 Supervised tooth brushing programme.** Children in around 45 schools and nurseries brush their teeth in school everyday supervised by their teachers, who are trained to carry out the programme. The children are also given free toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste to support them to brush their teeth at home. A rolling programme is underway to expand the programme to other schools and nurseries who are interested.

**5.2 Fluoride varnish applications.** A targeted programme of dental checks and fluoride varnish applications is underway in selected schools and nurseries with the poorest dental health.

**5.3 Healthy Eating.** Dental health promotion work is linked with other work going on in schools in relation to diet and nutrition. One-to-one discussions are held with parents of children for whom there are particular



concerns to ensure that parents are aware of good food choices for children.

#### **5.4 Work with vulnerable populations (Portsmouth Dental Academy)**

- 5.4.1** Targeted dental health promotion work is ongoing at Portsmouth Probation Service, Baytrees Detoxification Unit and The Foyer. This involves screening the mouths of service users for disease and giving oral health promotion. This work is carried out by the Portsmouth Dental Academy and those requiring treatment are offered this at the Dental Academy clinics providing a seamless care pathway for these individuals.
- 5.4.2** Regular dental health promotion visits to Sure Start groups in Fratton, Paulsgrove and Drayton are ongoing to interact with their clients and provide dietary advice and dental screening.
- 5.4.3** Targeted dental health promotion is ongoing at Shared Lives, a PCC-run service, training people to care for vulnerable adults, such as the elderly, those with learning/physical disabilities and mental health needs.
- 5.4.4** Portsmouth Dental Academy work with the Kestrel Centre, which supports adults with a learning disability and provides information, advice, education and support to carers and other health and social care professionals

**5.5 Signposting for dental care.** All programmes signpost participants to dental practices in the area and encourage them to attend regularly. This is to enable them to access advice on maintaining good dental health, identify and treat problems early and generally support them to grow up with a healthy mouth.

## **6.0 Dental services commissioned by NHS England**

### **6.1 General dental services**

“High street” dental practices provide dental care for the vast majority of the population. Currently, NHS England’s Wessex office holds 28 NHS contracts with 25 general dental practices in Portsmouth, with a total contract value of just over £9million. Of these 16 are currently accepting new patients for NHS dentistry.

### **6.2 Special care dental services**

NHS England holds a separate contract with Solent NHS Trust for dental services for special needs groups, both adults and children. Solent NHS Trust Dental Service provides most of the domiciliary dental care, dental care under sedation and care under a General Anaesthetic for those who are unable to cooperate, generally those with significant special care needs or young children.



### **6.3 Specialist dental services**

Specialist dental services are commissioned by NHS England from hospitals and specialist “high-street” practices for patients who need care outside of the skills of general “high-street” dentists. This includes oral surgery (such as removal of wisdom teeth), orthodontics (straightening teeth) and restorative dentistry (advanced crown & bridge work, complex endodontic or root canal treatment and periodontics or treatment for advanced gum disease)

## **7.0 Future plans for dental services**

### **7.1 Dental survey programme (Portsmouth City Council)**

The current contract with Solent NHS Trust expires in March 2016. Discussions are underway to explore future options. A key consideration is maximising consent which is critical to obtaining reliable data.

### **7.2 Dental health promotion services (Portsmouth City Council)**

Currently Portsmouth City Council holds contracts with Solent NHS Trust and the Portsmouth Dental Academy. The contract with Solent NHS Trust expires in March 2016 and the contract with the Portsmouth Dental Academy expires later this year. Discussions are underway regarding future options for commissioning programmes which are within budget and meet the needs of Portsmouth residents.

### **7.3 Dental treatment services**

Dental treatment services across Wessex (including Portsmouth) are monitored by NHS England's Wessex office. The Local Dental Network provides advice to dental contractors regarding redesigning care pathways, gaps in services and supports the development of services which are accessible to local populations. The Local Dental Network is keen to engage with all local Councils and provides the best opportunity for Portsmouth City Council to influence dental commissioning.