

<b>HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 5</b>
<b>7 JULY 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	NHS England and NHS Improvement – East of England	
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<b>NHS ENGLAND AND NHS IMPROVEMENT – EAST OF ENGLAND RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND THE DELIVERY OF NHS DENTAL SERVICES IN PETERBOROUGH</b>
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<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>
It is recommended that the Health Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report for information.

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report is being presented at the request of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report has been produced at the request of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 This report is for the Health Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

3. Scrutiny of the NHS and NHS providers.

**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 **The Committee has asked for an update regarding the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on the delivery of dental services in the Peterborough area and what provisions have been put in place and the recovery plan.**

Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on 25 March 2020, in relation to implementing social distancing measures to slow down the spread of COVID-19, the Committee will be aware that all non-urgent face to face dental activity was stopped.

In response to this directive and in conjunction with Public Health, NHS England and Improvement made a number of necessary changes to the delivery of dental services in the East of England region.

Across every NHS region local Urgent Dental Care (UDC) systems were created to provide care for people with urgent dental problems.

These hubs were established to meet the distinct needs of people with the following urgent dental care needs:

1. Those who are possible or confirmed COVID-19 patients – including patients with symptoms, or those living in their household.

2. Those who are 'shielded', as being at most-significant risk from COVID-19.
3. Those who are vulnerable/at increased risk from COVID-19.
4. Any other people who do not fit one of the above categories.

Two Urgent Dental Care centres were put in place in Peterborough, as a response to the initial restrictions, 55 referrals were made.

During this period NHS England and NHS Improvement – East of England did not receive any complaints from dental patients in Peterborough, nor were we made aware that any complaints were made to any other relevant authority.

All Dental Practices with an NHS contract were expected during the initial restrictions, to offer advice, analgesics and antibiotics (3As) to any patients who presented to them in need of urgent dental care.

Further to the latest publication from the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, all dental practices were able re-open from 8 June 2020, providing they met the safety standards set by Public Health England and NHS England and Improvement.

Whilst there are social distancing and Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) measures in place, NHS England and NHS Improvement did not expect all NHS practices to open providing a full range of services from 8 June 2020. The Chief Dental Officer for England has set out that:

*'We are asking that all dental practices commence opening from Monday 8 June for all face to face care, where practices assess that they have the necessary IPC and PPE requirements in place.'*

*Our advice is that the sequencing and scheduling of patients for treatment as services resume should take into account:*

- *the urgency of needs*
- *the particular unmet needs of vulnerable groups*
- *available capacity to undertake activity*

*Progression to resumption of the full range of routine dental care will be risk-managed by the individual practice and can include aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs), subject to following the necessary IPC and PPE requirements. Dental practices should also take steps to risk assess their workforce and take commensurate actions.*

*There also remains a need to be able to respond to any local or national re-imposition of public health measures should they arise."*

## 4.2 **Number of practices providing face to face services in Peterborough**

There are 15 NHS Dental Surgeries starting to provide face to face services and 1 offering advice, analgesics and antibiotics (3As) in Peterborough. These surgeries will support the 2 Urgent Dental Care centres put in place as a response to the initial restrictions. All surgeries will as a minimum be providing remote telephone triage, assessment, pain relief and prescription. If a practice is open for face to face contact, during this phase, NHS England and NHS Improvement – East of England expect, that if they have capacity, they should offer to see any patient within their NHS contract, if this is clinically indicated.

These practices that have confirmed their intention to be open from Monday 8 June 2020 (not necessarily all will be open on the 8th June) providing urgent care to priority patients (following clinical triage). These practices will provide either Non-Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) only or Non AGPs and AGPs

### 4.2.1 **Non-Aerosol Generating Procedures include (AGP)**

- Examinations;
- Handscaling with suction;
- Simple extractions;
- Removal of caries (tooth decay) using hand excavation.
- Using slow-speed handpiece with high volume suction.
- Local Anaesthesia.

#### 4.2.2 **AGP procedures include:**

All other procedures utilising ultrasonic scalers, high speed drills with associated water spray etc.

In addition, we have engaged some of these practices to provide urgent oral surgery procedures and some urgent orthodontic procedures.

NHS England and NHS Improvement – East of England acknowledges that the suspension of primary care dental services has had an impact on patient’s ability to receive dental care. We are working closely with providers and other stakeholders to achieve the resumption of safe and effective services. This will be done in a manner that takes into account limiting factors such as the availability of PPE, shielding patients, BAME members of the workforce and the need for fallow time between appointments to allow the venting and cleaning of surgeries.

The number of dental practices open at any one time will be subject to change due to a range of factors, ensuring the safety of patients, the public and dental practice staff remains paramount.

To access these services patients are being advised to contact their regular NHS dentist. If they do not have a regular dentist, they can contact any local NHS dental surgery using the NHS Website <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/dentists/> or they can contact NHS 111 <https://111.nhs.uk/> who will direct them to the appropriate service.

## 5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 N/A

## 6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 By being kept up to date with the latest situation regarding the provision of dental services the Health Scrutiny Committee will be able to question officers about the impact of Covid-19 on the delivery of NHS primary care dental services in Peterborough.

## 7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To keep the Health Scrutiny Committee up to date on the latest situation in relation to Covid-19 and the action taken by NHS England and NHS Improvement – East of England in response to the emergency.

## 8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## 9. **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

9.1 N/A

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 N/A

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 [General Dental Council - COVID-19: latest guidance for England](#)

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None