

<b>ADULTS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 6</b>
<b>12 MARCH 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of: Dental Commissioning Update	Name of External Organisation: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board	
Contact Officer(s):	Nicci Briggs, Chief Finance Officer	

<b>THE PROVISION OF NHS DENTAL SERVICES IN PETERBOROUGH</b>
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<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
It is recommended that Peterborough Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are asked to note the content of the report.</li> <li>2. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board want to assure members that we are working closely with Dental Providers who deliver an NHS dental contract in Peterborough to continue to recover and restore effective dental services, since the delegation of the commissioning of these service since 1 April 2023.</li> </ol>

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee following a request from the Committee for information regarding the current provision of dental services and access to urgent dental care in Peterborough.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to

- (a) Provide an overview of how dental provision has been managed previously in Peterborough.
- (b) Provision going forward.
- (c) Access to urgent dental care

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.

**3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

3.1 Background

3.1.1 The Health and Care Act received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 and as a result Integrated Care Boards (ICB) became legally and operationally established on 1 July 2022. This fulfils the long-term policy ambition of giving systems responsibility for managing local population health needs, tackling inequalities and addressing fragmented pathways of care.

3.1.2 In the East of England, the Primary Medical Care (PMC) function was delegated to Integrated Care Boards (ICB) effective from 1 July 2022. The responsibility for Dental

and Pharmacy and Optometry (P&O) functions were delegated to ICBs with effect from 1 April 2023.

- 3.1.3 The governance framework within which NHS Dental Services are provided is through a national Dental Contracting Framework. This overarching governance frames how services are delivered, prior to delegation by NHS England – East of England and then following delegation of dental services, ICBs.
- 3.1.4 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System has inherited a number of NHS Dental contracts that have underperformed since at least 2018 / 19, against the national General Dental Services contract that has been in place since 2006 and is activity driven. The pandemic exacerbated the under delivery and the restoration of NHS Dental Services has been slow to recover, largely as a result of the pricing structure of this contract.

#### Local context

- 3.1.5 On 1 April 2023, NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, the local Integrated Care Board (ICB), became responsible for the commissioning and management of NHS dental services in the area. The ICB has since been able to secure £6.1m in funding to help improve access to this service and support our communities.
- 3.1.6 The ICB has engaged with local providers who deliver NHS Dental Services across the system, who are very supportive and eager to work with us, to improve access to NHS Dental Services for all patients across the area.
- 3.1.7 The ICB used commissioning, population health and health inequalities data to identify the geographical areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, where the majority of additional resource should be focused. Peterborough was highlighted as one of the areas of need, where there are the highest level of health inequalities and therefore will benefit from a larger proportion of this additional resource.
- 3.1.8 NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough has a Dental Improvement Plan in place to use this funding to improve local people’s experiences of NHS dentistry. This plan includes:

Initiative	Summary
Paediatric pathway review and further development of this pathway to make it more sustainable and robust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional resource for prevention to support the Local Authority statutory responsibility.</li> <li>• Additional sessions for paediatric patients including Children in Care.</li> <li>• Setting up of Child Focused Dental Practice (CFDP) initiative</li> </ul>
Support to the Special Care Dental Service	Additional sessions for Special Care Dental Service will be provided
General Dental Services (High Street dental practices)	Additional sessions for High Street Dental Practices will be offered. In areas of higher access need more sessions will be offered.
Orthodontic Service	Additional resource will be offered to reduce Orthodontic provider waiting lists.
Care Home support	Offer Care Home staff support with Oral Health of residents and then onward referral

	to a dental practice for treatment as required.
Golden Hello	Offer one off additional payment to a young dentist / just qualified to come and work at a specific practice in the ICB. To align with national recovery plan
Patient engagement	To gain a real insight into the challenges that patients are facing with access to NHS Dental Services.

3.1.9 The additional sessions for high street dental practices have been offered to all dental providers delivering an NHS contract. This will be followed shortly with the offer for Orthodontic waiting lists and support to the Special Care Dental Service. The other initiatives will be rolled out in a phased approach.

3.1.10 It is envisaged, through these measures, to improve dental access, that they will reduce inappropriate presentations of dental problems to General Practice and Emergency Departments. Therefore, increasing access to those services for more appropriate support and meaning patients are more likely to get definitive treatment of their dental issues from a dental professional rather than 'first aid' from a medical practitioner in those other settings.

#### Urgent Dental Care Access

3.1.11 In Peterborough (and across Cambridgeshire) a Dental Access Centre (DAC) is commissioned by the Integrated Care Board as an in-hours service and also Out of Hours Dental provision.

- DACs provide urgent dental care to patients (patients in dental pain) who are unable to access dental services from a General Dental Practitioner (GDP).
- The DACs do not provide oral health stabilisation or routine services.
- Patients can access this service by contacting the service directly. It is a first come, first served basis provision and when the slots are full a patient would be required to call back the next day.
- This service is provided on a Monday – Friday. Emergency care provision with dental, relates to life threatening conditions that a patient would be required to attend hospital to be treated.

3.1.12 Alongside this provision, there is an expectation that all high street dental services provide some urgent dental care access each day, accessible Monday – Friday.

3.1.13 At the weekends an Out of Hours urgent Dental Service is available in Peterborough (and across Cambridgeshire), patients can access this care via NHS 111.

#### **New National Dental Recovery Plan**

3.1.14 On 7 February 2024, NHS England published a joint NHS and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry.

3.1.15 As part of the national plan, supported by £200m of government funding, NHS dentists will be given a 'new patient' payment of between £15 - £50 (depending on treatment need) to treat around a million new patients who have not seen an NHS dentist in two years or more.

- 3.1.16 The plan sets out how the NHS and government will drive a major new focus on prevention and good oral health in young children and deliver an expanded dental workforce.
- 3.1.17 The plan will also see the government roll out a new 'Smile For Life' programme which will see parents and parents-to-be offered advice for baby gums and milk teeth, with the aim that by the time children go to school, every child will see tooth brushing as a normal part of their day.
- 3.1.18 To attract new NHS dentists and improve access to care in areas with the highest demand, around 240 dentists will be offered one-off payments of up to £20,000 for working in under-served areas for up to three years.
- 3.1.19 NHS work will also be made more attractive to dental teams with the minimum value of activity increasing to £28 (from £23). This will affect a small number of contracts across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is understood that any additional funding will be required to be covered from the current dental budget for the ICB.
- 3.1.20 New ways of delivering care in rural and coastal areas will also be rolled out, including by launching 'dental vans' – with at least one of these vans coming to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as part of the plan.
- 3.1.21 Following the publication of this plan, the ICB is awaiting further national guidance regarding what this will mean on a local level to support our patients across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 There are currently no dental related consultations live in our area.

#### **5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 5.1 The improvement plan aims to achieve the following outcomes:
- Increase dental access, through additional sessions, including patients that have not attended a dental practice in over 2 years, particularly in areas on higher need across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
  - Increase the capacity within the Special Care Dental Service, who support vulnerable patients.
  - Assist to reduce the waiting list for young people requiring NHS Orthodontic Treatment.
  - Improve the Paediatric pathway, to provide access to NHS Dental Services.
  - To support and improve access NHS Dental Services, for elder people in care homes.

#### **6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 To note – this paper seeks to provide the Committee with an update regarding NHS Dental Service provision in Peterborough.

#### **7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 The system is operating in an environment where some Dental Practices, that deliver the NHS contract, do not believe the NHS dental prices are sustainable and will potentially lead to more Practices handing back contracts.

The Committee is asked to note that NHS prices are nationally not locally determined, hence we welcome the national raising of the minimum value of activity, however we are also looking at other financial initiatives and championing a piece of work to look into contract rates vs NHS dental activity.

## **8. IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Financial Implications**

N/A

### **8.2 Legal Implications**

N/A

### **8.3 Equalities Implications**

Our plans have been developed with significant consideration of health inequalities and how we can address them in our local area.

### **8.4 Rural Implications**

N/A

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

### **9.1 Joint NHS and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) plan**

[Our plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## **10. APPENDICES**

### **10.1 None**

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