

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
20 November 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Insert name of Director(s)	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Insert name and portfolio of Cabinet Member(s)	
Contact Officer(s):	Katie Liddle, Designated Nurse Children in Care	Email: katie.liddle@nhs.net

HEALTH REPORT – Dental update

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Katie Liddle, Designated Nurse Children in Care	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report 2. Raise any queries with the lead officers 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to a formal Corporate Parenting Committee as part of a scheduled work programme item.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report provides an update on health and dental services for children in care. The report provides an overview of the Integrated Care Board’s (ICB) activities to ensure robust monitoring and quality assurance systems are in place to meet the health needs of Peterborough’s Children in Care including those with a disability.

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting panel to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care. Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.

2.3 N/A

2.4 *How does this report link to the Children in care Promise?*

We will support you maintain a healthy lifestyle and help look after your physical and mental health.

3. TIMESCALES *[If this is not a Major Policy item, answer NO and delete the second line of boxes.]*

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
Date for relevant Council meeting		Date for submission to Government Dept. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i>	

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 All children in care placed in Peterborough continue to have their dental health reviewed during health assessments. Children seen for Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) have a mouth check completed by a paediatrician and every child that is seen for a Review Health Assessment (RHA) has their dental health and access to dental care discussed as part of their review with a specialist nurse. This is not to replace dental care and assessment, but is part of the holistic assessment and enables the health professional to signpost to appropriate services.

4.2 Children in care are advised of their local dental access centre if they require urgent dental care. All children in care are advised of the ChiC (children in care) dental practices identified on the volunteer dentist map for routine dental check-ups and preventative dental care if they are not currently registered with a dentist. ChiC are a group of dental practices who have signed up to the volunteer map who are committed to seeing children in care. Other dentists across the county will also add children in care to their register when waiting lists allow.

4.3 Many people across the country, including in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, find it difficult to get the NHS dental treatment they need. NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough launched a £6.1 million action plan earlier in 2024, to create more dental capacity to help local people. Extra funding has also been invested in orthodontic services to support their waiting lists. The Designated Doctor and Nurse for Children in Care have been invited to attend the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Paediatric Dental Pathway Local Initiative.

4.4 Bushfield dental practice have continued the commitment made in Jan 2023 to see children in Care living in Peterborough for routine dental assessments and completion of treatment required. There is a code to be used when the carer/young person makes an appointment which has been circulated widely across health and Social Care teams. This is so the reception team know to book them an appointment without question when the code is used. The practice manager confirmed recently that the practice is happy to continue to support children in care under the age of 18 who are placed in Peterborough without question and has extended this offer to care leavers up to the age of 25 years.

4.5 Bretton Dental Practice have continued to see unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people living in Peterborough without issue, but as yet have not committed to adding their details to the ChiC (children in care) volunteer dental map.

The table below shows data collected at the end of September 2024, 72% of children looked after by Peterborough Local Authority had seen a dentist within the last 12 months. Specifically looking at those children placed in Peterborough it rises to 88% who have seen a dentist within the last 12 months.

Total number of Peterborough children who have been in care for 12 months or more at month end	Number of those children who had seen a dentist within 12 months	Number of those children who had not seen a dentist within 12 months	Number of children not seen by dentist in last 12 months placed outside of Peterborough (out of county children).	Number of children not seen a dentist in last 12 months living within Peterborough (in county children).
265	191	74	42	32
As a percentage	72%	28%	57% (of not seen)	43% (of not seen)

It is of note that 84% of the children who have not seen a dentist within the last 12 months are aged between 10-17 years and 39% fall within the 16-17 year age bracket.

In addition to the emergency and routine dental services mentioned above, there is a Special Care Dental Service. They provide a comprehensive range of activities to improve the oral health of

4.7 children and adults who have a physical, sensory, intellectual mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability, which makes routine care in general dental practice unsuitable or impractical for their needs. Children in care automatically meet the referral criteria, however patients are only accepted on referral by General Dental Practitioners. The Special Care Dental Service are able to offer dental treatment under sedation for children/adults experiencing dental phobia who require treatment for oral health.

4.8 NHS orthodontic treatment is free for people under the age of 18 with a clear health need for treatment. Due to high demand, there can be a long waiting list. A rating system called the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN) is used to assess eligibility for NHS treatment (see Appendix 1). NHS treatment is available for grade 4 and grade 5 cases. Grade 3 cases are judged on an individual basis. NHS treatment may also be available if the appearance of the teeth, jaw or face is of concern.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 *Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:*

1. *Our Places & Communities*
 - *Health and Wellbeing*
2. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*
 - *Children*

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 *N/A*

6.2 *N/A*

6.3 *N/A*

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 To improve health and well-being, and health outcomes for children in care by ensuring adequate assessment of health and suitable health provision; addressing areas where there may be a lack of provision or improvements required.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Corporate Parenting Committee have requested a health update at all formal committees.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Lack of provision of dental services for children and young people in care, would result in poor dental health and therefore, was rejected.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 *N/A*

Legal Implications

10.2 N/A

Equalities Implications

10.3 N/A

Other Implications

10.4 *Summarise here any implications related to this item, using the checklist attached as guidance and seek input from relevant service.
Does this report have any implications for Children In Care and Care Leavers? If so, include these in this section.*

This report has implications for children in care and care leavers access to dentistry. Through development of relationships with local dental practices, access to dental services and dental treatment for children in care and care leavers living in Peterborough is provided. This offers assurance regarding access to dentistry for children in care and Care leavers living in Peterborough.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 *None*

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 – Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN)