



# Primary Care Dental services in Lincolnshire



# Challenges



## National

- Challenges for NHS Dentistry existed prior to the pandemic
- Access issues
- Profession discontent with current contract

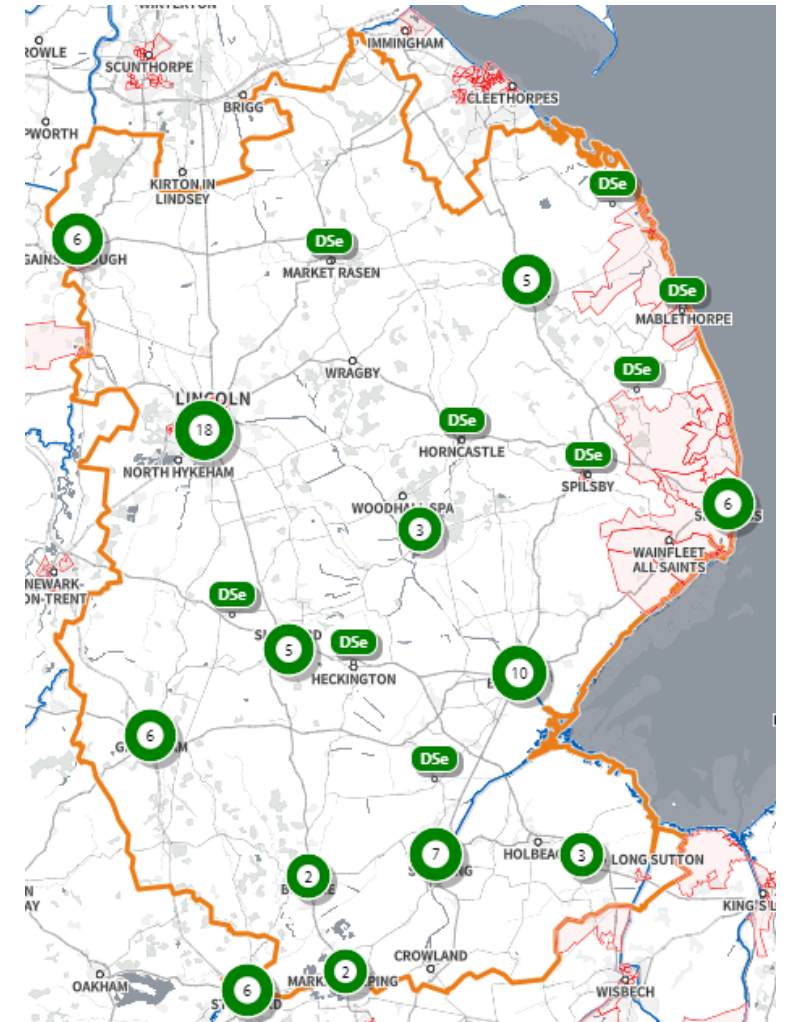
## Lincolnshire

- Rurality and Coastal Area challenges
- Deprivation issues
- Second largest County in England
- Access to services
- Increased time taken to travel between localities in the County
- Ageing population

# Location of Services



- 61 NHS General Dental Practices
- 2 Specialist Orthodontic Practices
  - 14 General Practices that also provide Orthodontics
- 8-8 Extended Out of Hours unplanned Urgent Care Sites 365 days of year (Spalding, Lincoln and Sleaford)
- 7 NHS Dental Contracts offer extended hours weekdays, weekend and Bank Holidays (Boston, Gainsborough, Louth, Lincoln, Sleaford and Skegness) for routine and urgent care.
- 7 Community Dental Service sites providing community and specialised services.
- Secondary Care – One Acute Trust – Orthodontics and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
- Intermediate Minor Oral Surgery (IMOS) – 5 Practices across Lincolnshire

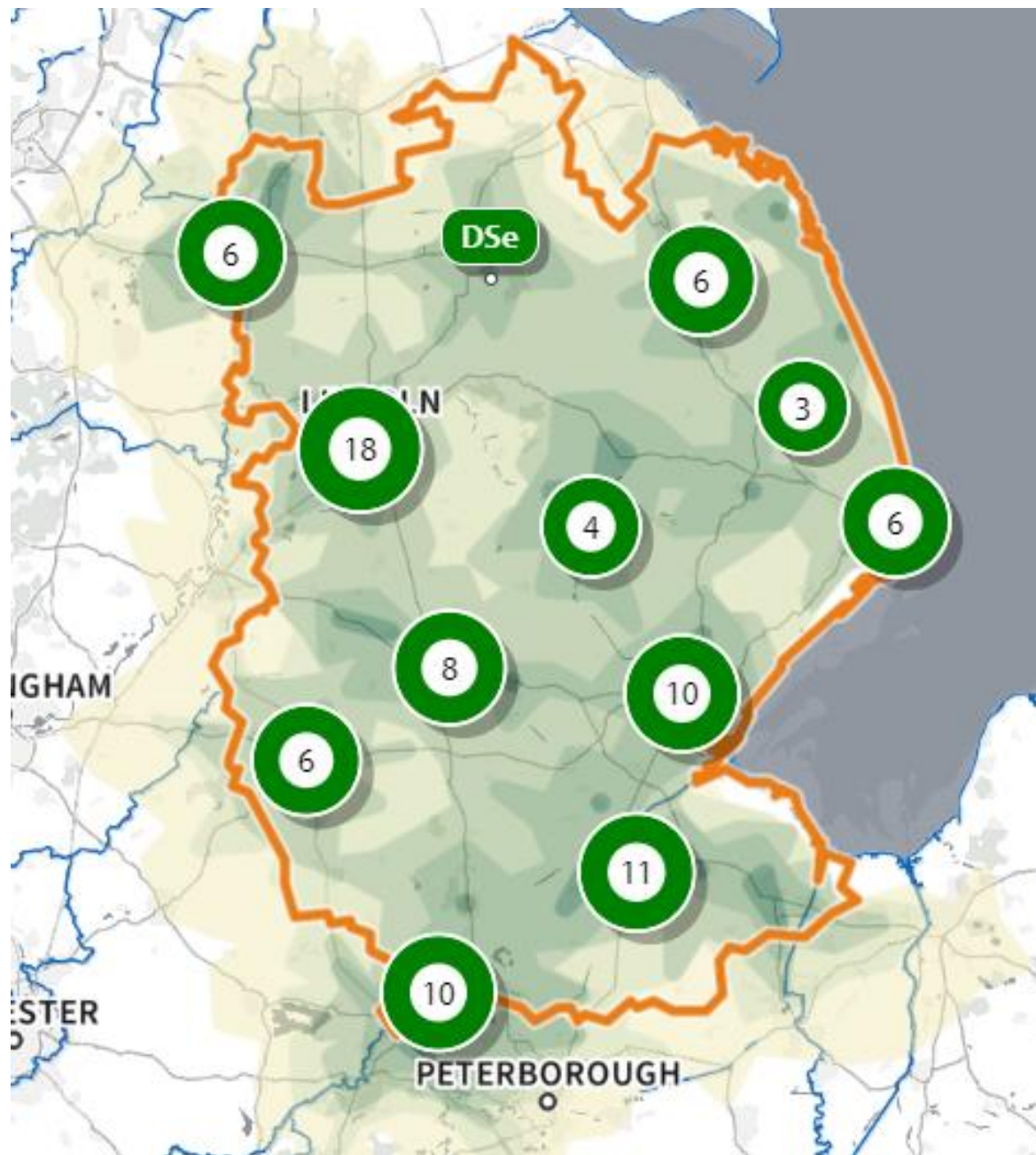


**Red shaded area: 20% most deprived**  
13.5% of people in Lincolnshire

# Location of local dental surgeries (including orthodontic and community sites)

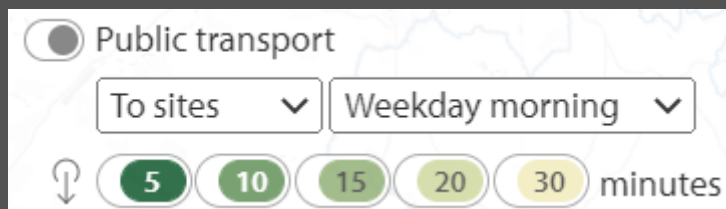


The map shows travel times by car, which demonstrates that all dental services in the County are accessible by car within 30 minutes in rush hour.

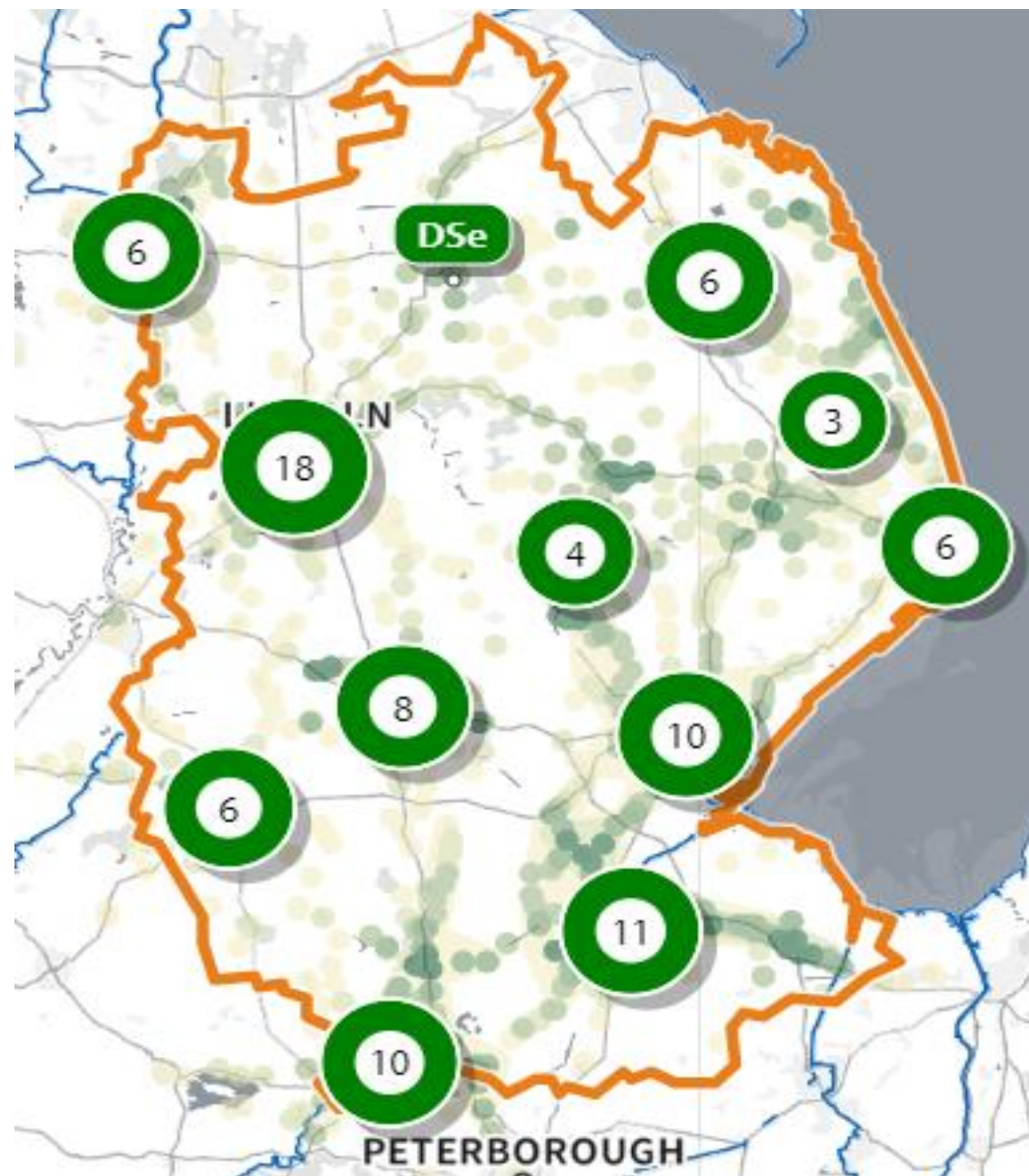


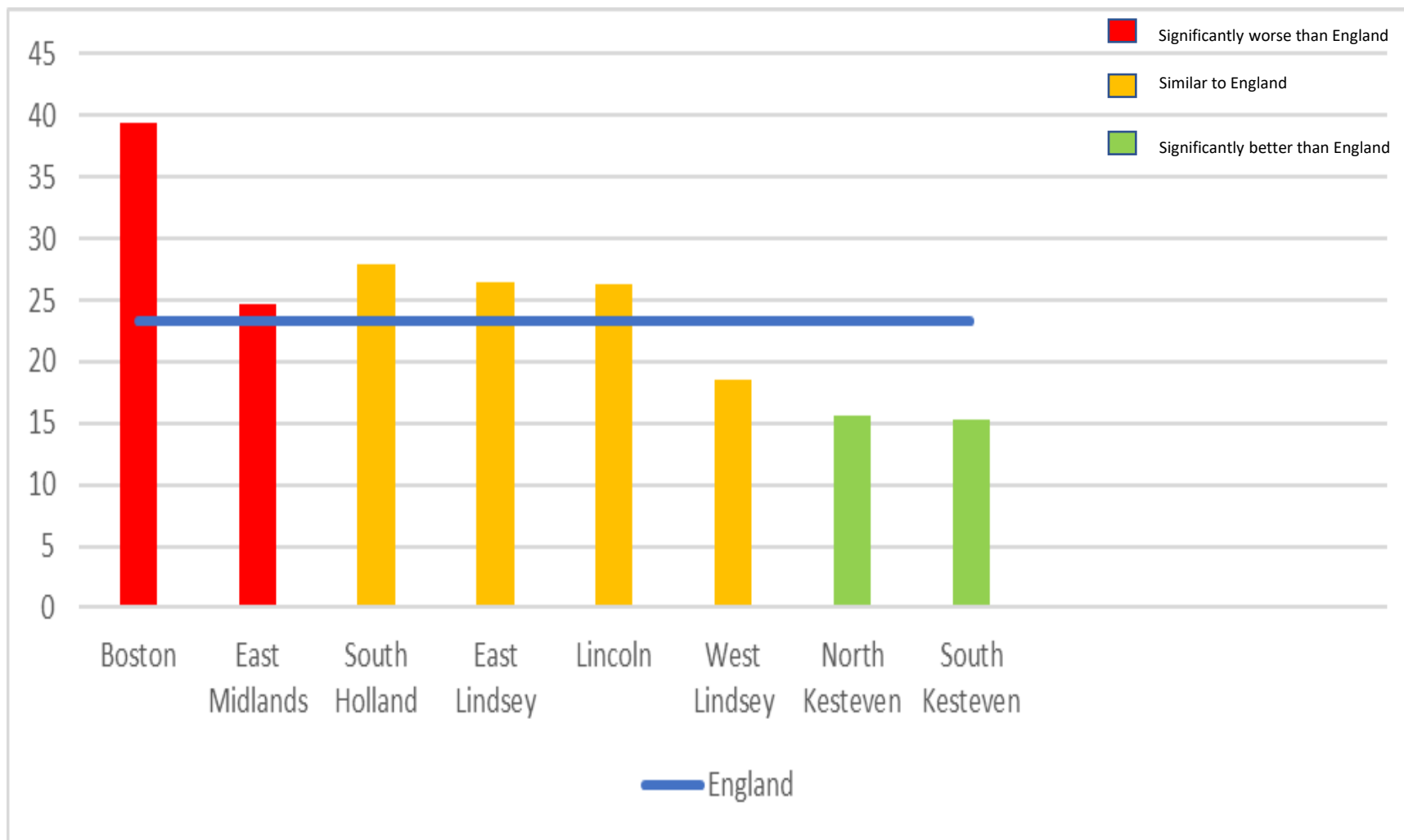


# Location of local dental surgeries (including orthodontic and community sites)



The map shows travel times by public transport, which demonstrates that not all dental services in the County are accessible by public transport.



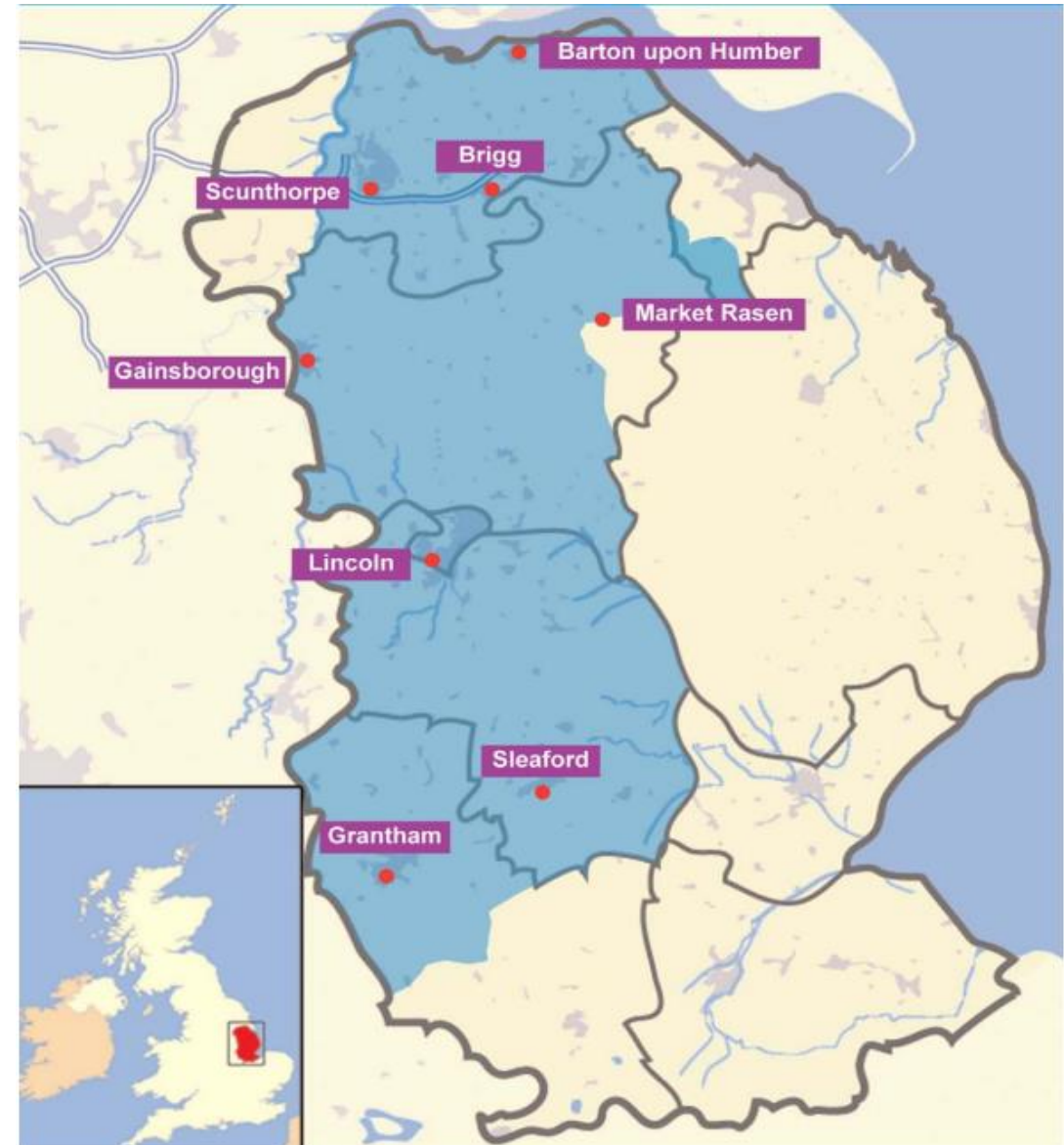


**% of 5 year olds with visually obvious dental decay (2018/19)**

**The 2019 national oral health survey of 5 year old children showed wide variation in both the prevalence and severity of dental decay among young children across Lincolnshire.**

# Water Fluoridation

- Water fluoridation is an effective and safe public health measure to reduce the frequency and severity of dental decay, and narrow oral health inequalities.
- The Health and Care Bill was granted Royal Assent on the 29<sup>th</sup>. April 2022 for healthcare recovery and reform.
- The new Health and Care Act 2022 also introduces measures that will level up disparities in oral health by making it simpler to add fluoride to the water in more areas across England.
- The new Health and Care Act removes the decision-making responsibility on water fluoridation that has resided with local authorities since 2013 by allowing such decisions to be made centrally.
- Water fluoridation significantly reduces extractions and cavities among children and young people.
- Evidence shows children in areas of England with higher fluoride concentrations were up to **63% less likely to be admitted to hospital for tooth extractions** due to decay than those in areas with low fluoride concentrations.
- The greatest benefit was seen with children and young people in the most deprived areas.



# Future Opportunities & Solutions - Lincolnshire



- **Lincolnshire County Council** - currently undertaking a rapid oral health needs assessment in order to better understand some of the impacts of the pandemic on oral health and oral health inequalities across Lincolnshire.
- **Integrated Care Systems** - From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, joint commissioning arrangements will be set up between NHSE/I and the ICS in advance of the full delegation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This is where there will be opportunities within the integration agenda to deliver place-based commissioning that is specific to the system rather than on a wider footprint.
- **“Golden Hello” Scheme** – NHSE/I initiative to encourage practitioners to work within NHS Dentistry in areas of need and deprivation.
- **NHS Communications Team** have drafted a series of stakeholder briefings to update key partners and the public on the situation with respect to NHS dental services. These have been distributed to local authorities, Directors of Public Health and CCGs. We have also engaged with local Healthwatch, and they have shared intelligence on local concerns or on difficulties people may be having accessing NHS dental services.
- **Local Dental Network (LDN) Chairs** collaboratively working with Managed Clinical Networks at place and neighbourhood level, Integrated Care Systems, Consultants in Dental Public Health, Commissioners and Health Education England to ensure optimum provision of care for patients.
- **Secondary Care - Getting it right first time (GIRFT)** for Oral Surgery hospital dentistry review. GIRFT project launch event took place in April and the project will support restoration and recovery of secondary care dental oral surgery services in Lincolnshire.