


Agenda Item 9

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of NHS England, Central Midlands

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	23 November 2016
Subject:	NHS Dental Services Overview for Lincolnshire

Summary:

This report will provide an overview of the NHS dental services commissioned in Lincolnshire, brief on and update on the new Special Care Dentistry Service arrangements from 1 December 2016.

Actions Required:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire are:

- i) requested to note the contents of the report; and
- ii) invited to consider and comment on the report.

1. Background

National Context

NHS England is responsible for commissioning primary and secondary care dental services since April 2013.

The government has made a commitment to oral health and dentistry with a drive to:

- Improve the oral health of the population, particularly children
- Introduce a new NHS primary dental care contract
- Increase access to primary care dental services.

NHS England's clinical aim for each dental practice is to deliver high quality NHS clinical services defined as:

"patient-centred and value for money primary care dental services, delivered in a safe and effective manner, through a learning environment, which includes the continuing professional development of dentists and other dental professionals"

NHS England's over-arching aims for primary dental service provision are:

- To improve oral health and to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing
- To improve access to NHS dental services and to improve the experience of all service users
- To develop excellent integrated and more localised services
- To ensure that key evidence based, preventive, consistent messages and interventions are communicated and delivered by all
- To ensure access to unscheduled and elective dental care is available to all
- To provide evidence informed care according to identified need
- To promote choice by services users, by ongoing consultation and engagement.

Local Context

Central Midlands Local Office is responsible for commissioning NHS primary, community and secondary care dental services. The Central Midlands Local Office has two locality teams that manage dental and optometry commissioning. Lincolnshire is part of the North Locality, which covers Leicestershire, Rutland and Lincolnshire.

There are 69 practices within Lincolnshire delivering 76 contracts:

- 49 providing general dental services (10 are restricted contracts, for example children under the age of 18 years, 19 years if in full time education and/or exempt patients)
- 1 pilot contract providing general dental services
- 15 providing general dental and orthodontic services
- 5 contractors providing orthodontic services
- 5 contractors providing minor oral surgery services
- 1 Special Care Dentistry Service contractor

One contractor is piloting a new prototype dental contract, which is testing a new remuneration system that blends activity and capitation (patient registration) aligning to financial and clinical drivers with a focus on prevention and continuing care. Seven practices also provide access to urgent and routine care over extended hours, for example 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and extended access cover over weekends and Bank Holidays excluding Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter Sunday.

Secondary dental care services providing specialist services, for example orthodontics and maxillofacial services for Lincolnshire is delivered by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT).

NHS Dental Contract

In April 2006, NHS dental contractors were transferred over to the new NHS dental contract. The new dental contracts are activity based and contractors are required to deliver an activity target each financial year. General dental services contracts are monitored against delivery of their unit of dental activity (UDA) target and orthodontic contracts are monitored against delivery of their unit of orthodontic activity (UOA) target. Specialist services delivered in primary care, such as minor oral surgery are commissioned on a cost per case basis.

Since April 2006, patients are no longer registered to a dental practice and are only attached to a dental practice when they are in active treatment. However, practices usually hold a notional list to assist managing their capacity to provide dental services to regular patients/new patients seeking routine or urgent care. Patients can choose any geographical area to access services in NHS England and there are no restrictions on where patients can access NHS dental services.

Patients will be advised by the dental practitioner on their recall interval based on The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guidance 19 Dental Recall, October 2004. Dental recalls are determined by the patient's oral health and other factors for example age, diet, oral hygiene, fluoride use, tobacco and alcohol. Recall rates for children up to age of 18 years can be every 3/6/9 or 12 months and adult recall intervals can be every 3/6/9/12/15/18 months to 2 years. It is important that young children (up to 2 years) attend a dentist for their first examination to commence monitoring their oral health.

Patient charges were changed with the introduction of the new contract and these were simplified into three treatment bands. NHS dental charges apply if a patient does not meet the exemption criteria. Patients will be charged for one completed course of treatment and the charge is determined by the treatment provided. The patient charges are:

Treatment Band	Type of Treatment	Patient Charge £
Band 1	This covers examinations, diagnosis (including radiographs), advice on how to prevent future problems, scale and polish if clinically necessary, and preventative care (e.g. applications of fluoride varnish or fissure sealant). This band also covers urgent dental care in a primary care dental practice such as pain relief or a temporary filling.	19.70
Band 2	This covers everything listed in Band 1, plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or if your dentist needs to take out one or more of your teeth.	53.90
Band 3	This covers everything listed in Bands 1 and 2, plus crowns, dentures, bridges and other laboratory work.	233.70

Oral Health Needs Assessment and Dental Commissioning Intentions

Public Health England has developed, in conjunction with NHS England Central Midlands Local Office, an Oral Health Needs Assessment (OHNA) for the North Locality covering Leicestershire and Lincolnshire in consultation with the Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The OHNA has been submitted for gateway approval so this can be published. The ONHA is based on a point in time,

is based on NHS dental activity delivered in 2013/14 and relates to patients resident in an area.

The OHNA reviews the demographics of the resident population, provision of services, access to NHS dental services and makes recommendations for the commissioners to consider when developing the dental commissioning intentions to improve service provision. An access measure is used to determine the number of patients seen as a proportion of the resident population and access rates can be affected and influenced by many different factors, for example deprivation or prosperity of the resident population, lifestyle choices etc. It is important to note that a low access rate may not necessarily be solely due to a lack of provision as this can be affected by patient choice of accessing services outside the area or opting for private dental treatment. The OHNA identifies access rates for children under the age of 18 years and adults by Local Authority (LA).

The ONHA identified that the following LA areas access rate is similar to or above the NHS England the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire averages:

- West Lindsey for children and adults
- North Kesteven for children
- South Kesteven for children and adults
- East Lindsey for children and adults

The following LA areas access rate is below the NHS England and the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire average:

- Boston for children and adults
- Lincoln for children and adults
- South Holland for children and adults
- North Kesteven for adults

The Local Office reviewed the outcomes of the draft OHNA along with other intelligence, which includes patient engagement and consultation feedback to develop the dental commissioning intentions. It has been agreed to commission new contracts as part of the dental procurement programme to improve access to general dental services in priority areas identified within the resource envelope available:

- Boston
- Lincoln
- Sleaford (North Kesteven)
- Spalding South Holland)

Any new contract has to be awarded via a procurement process to comply with dental contract regulations, competition and procurement law requirements. NHS England commenced procuring new services in the above areas in January 2016, however, the procurement process was paused in March 2016 following national advice received from NHS England's Primary Care Commissioning Team. The Local Office is planning to recommence the procurement process for the new dental contracts and the timeframes are being finalised. Whilst the procurement is being undertaken to secure new services in Lincolnshire, existing practices have had the

opportunity to request non-recurrent activity to improve access to see new patients and four contractors have been awarded additional non-recurrent activity.

Dental Foundation Training and Recruitment

All newly qualified dentists are required to complete a one year dental foundation training following completion of their dental degree. The Foundation Training process is managed by Health Education England. Foundation dentists are assigned to accredited dental practices and have an identified mentor to support them through their foundation training process. Funding is provided to cover the costs of the Foundation Dentist and funding to support the accredited mentor. Three out of the 26 training places across Leicestershire and Lincolnshire were secured within Lincolnshire practices.

Dental Commissioning Guides

The Dental Commissioning Guides provide a standardised framework for the local commissioning of dental specialties. They provide guidance to Local Offices on improving access to care, based on needs that are criterion referenced, with demonstrable high value health outcomes experienced by patients.

Local Offices will work closely with the Managed Clinical Networks (MCN), the Regional Dental Public Health Consultants and Dental Local Professional Networks (LPN). The aim is to deliver the best patient journey possible, supported by mandatory specialist advice and/or access to care, that meets the needs of the local patient population whilst achieving the nationally expected standards of care provision within existing resources.

The Dental Commissioning Guides have been developed nationally involving the dental profession and commissioners overseen by the Chief Dental Officer in England. The Dental Commissioning Guides published are:

- Special Care Dentistry (Adults)
- Orthodontics
- Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine

Commissioning Guides for Restorative Services and Pediatrics are in development and publication has been delayed.

Local Dental Professional Network (LPN)

The Local Dental Professional Network for Leicestershire and Lincolnshire was established in 2013. The main aims and objectives of the Dental LPN is to:

- Provide robust and quality clinical input to the Local Office
- Improve clinical outcomes
- Address health inequalities
- Putting the patient in the centre of everything that we do
- Engage with the Dental profession across the entire pathway.

The Dental LPN Steering Group develop work priorities each financial year and progress is monitored by NHS England Central Midlands. The Steering Group has good engagement from the dental health community, Health Education England, Public Health and Local Authorities, however, Clinical Commissioning Groups engagement has been a challenge with little interest.

The Dental LPN has been recognised nationally for the work on older patients oral health in Lincolnshire linked into the Oral Health Promotion Strategy.

Work is ongoing to improve general practice implementation of the Delivering Better Oral Health guidance. Training has been provided to dental care professionals to apply fluoride varnish to children at risk of dental caries and the Chief Dental Officer has launched the Smile for Life. The LPN has secured non-recurrent funding to pilot improved access to interpretation services across Leicestershire and Lincolnshire from NHS England.

There are a number of challenges that the LPN has identified within their work priorities and these relate to:

- Access to Restorative Services.
- Formation of Gerodontology MCN to focus on Older peoples, people with Dementia and Mental health issue's Oral health.
- Delivering prevention to families who have experienced extraction with General Anaesthetic for tooth decay.
- Encourage the increase in foundation training practices in Lincolnshire.
- Increasing the level of Oral health promotion activities in Lincolnshire in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council.
- Implementation of Healthy gums do matter toolkit and increase the knowledge of the General Dental practitioner of the relevance of oral health on general health and vice versa.

NHS England has secured dedicated support across Central Midlands to performance manage the dental secondary care contracts, review secondary care dental pathways to improve access and commission new pathways, subject to approval and within the resources envelope.

The LPN has established Managed Clinical Networks for Special Care Dentistry, Orthodontics and Minor Oral Surgery to support delivering the work priorities, review commissioning guidance to improve patient pathways and patient outcomes.

Joint Working with the Lincolnshire County Council

Lincolnshire County Council became responsible for improving health and reducing inequalities for its local population from 1 April 2013. Local Authorities are responsible for commissioning oral health promotion programmes and epidemiology surveys. Lincolnshire County Council has agreed that the oral health promotion and epidemiology is commissioned on their behalf through NHS England's Special Care Dentistry Service contract.

An Oral Health Alliance Group for Lincolnshire has been established to enable joint working across the health community. The group have developed and agreed an Oral Health Promotion in Lincolnshire Strategic Action Plan and non-recurrent funding has been secured from NHS England and Lincolnshire County Council to deliver the three year programme. Lincolnshire County Council has appointed a Programme Officer to manage the delivery of the strategic action plan and the programme commenced in August 2015. The aim of the strategic action plan is to improve oral health promotion of the Lincolnshire population and target identified priority patient groups.

Special Care Dentistry Service Update

NHS England has completed a procurement process to secure service provision of the Special Care Dentistry Service from 1 December 2016. The fixed term contract was awarded to Community Dental Services (CDS-CIC) in June 2016. The contract has been awarded on a 7 year contracting term with the option to extend for a further 3 years. The service was procured on the basis that there would be continuity for patients with the service being delivered by the same experienced team, from the same locations as before to minimise impact on patients.

Since June 2016, NHS England has been working with Lincolnshire Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Community Dental Services to ensure a smooth transition, whilst staff and the service are transferred between providers. The mobilisation process will be completed at the end of November so the new provider can commence delivering the service from 1 December 2016. The mobilisation process is on track to be successfully completed and it is recognised that the process would not be achieved without the commitment and co-operation of the two providers and the joint mobilisation group.

All referrers across the health community will be advised of the revised referral process, all stakeholders will receive an updated brief and a media release will be published in mid-November.

Community Dental Services will be working with NHS England, Local Dental Professional Network and Managed Clinical Networks to transform the service in line with the Dental Commissioning Guides over the next 12 months.

2. Conclusion

The Health Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and to consider and comment on the content of the report.

3. Consultation

This is not applicable.

4. Background Papers - No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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