


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 and NHS Improvement - Midlands

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	22 January 2020
Subject:	NHS Dental Services Overview for Lincolnshire

Summary:

This report will provide an overview of the NHS dental services commissioned in Lincolnshire and update on the current challenges and commissioning intentions to improve NHS dental services and oral health across Lincolnshire.

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 has been responsible for commissioning primary, community 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 and NHS Improvement has aligned to form seven new regional footprints. The new regional footprints were introduced on 1 April 2019 however the final phase 3 organisational change programme will be complete by 31 March 2020. During the transition period, an internal restructure process is being undertaken to align staff to the new structures to work across the new regional footprints with effect from 1 April 2020. The regional office covering Lincolnshire is the Midlands Region.

Local Context

The new Midlands region will have two localities which are West and East Midlands. The East Midlands locality covers Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicester City, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire. The Primary Care Commissioning team structure includes a Primary Care Dental and Secondary Care/Intermediate Minor Oral Surgery & Community Services teams to cover the East Midlands locality.

NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands is responsible for commissioning NHS primary, community and secondary care dental services.

In Lincolnshire there are 70 contracts providing NHS dental services:

- 43 providing general dental services (9 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 providers providing orthodontic services
- 5 providers providing minor oral surgery services
- 1 Special Care Dentistry Service provider.

One provider 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. There are six practices which 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. In addition, there are two 8 to 8s practices based in Lincoln and Sleaford that provide access to urgent and routine care from 8am to 8pm and 365 days a year.

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

General Dental Services Procurement

A general dental services procurement process was undertaken in 2019 to commission 8 new Personal Dental Services (PDS) Plus Agreements across Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. Six out of the eight lots were to commission general dental services in Lincolnshire. The procurement process concluded at the beginning of September 2019 and moved to a 6 month mobilisation period to establish new services to commence on 1 March 2020.

The new PDS Plus Agreements have a contracting term of seven years with the option to extend for a further three years and the contract value was split into 70% activity and 30% dependant on delivery of seven key performance indicators relating to effective quality care, health promotion and patient experience. To support attracting entrants to the market, the service model was revised to enable flexibility with staggering implementation of the contracts with activity of 15,000 UDAs or above whilst the service is established in the first year of the contract to assist with recruitment and spreading capital investment costs.

The procurement process outcome is as follows:

Lot Details	No of Units of Dental Activity per annum	Preferred Bidder	Opening Hours model
Lot 3 Mablethorpe Marisco Medical Centre	18,800	No preferred bidder identified	Extended with defined opening hours
Lot 4 Boston	15,000	Burton Dental Lodge	Extended opening hours
Lot 5 Spalding A Johnson Community Hospital	21,000	No preferred bidder identified	Extended with defined opening hours
Lot 6 Spalding B	25,000	JDSP Dental Limited	8 to 8, 365 days a year
Lot 7 Louth	10,000	Smile Centre (Boston) Limited	Extended opening hours
Lot 8 Skegness/Spilsby	5,000	No preferred bidder identified	Extended opening hours

Extended opening hours will provide routine and urgent dental care services between Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm with additional extended access sessions e.g. minimum of two 1.5 hour sessions per week either early morning or evening and a Saturday morning 3.5 hours per session per week if available within the premises defined opening hours.

NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands is disappointed that no preferred bidders were identified for three lots in Lincolnshire, those being Mablethorpe, Spalding A (Johnson Community Hospital) and Skegness/Spilsby. Preferred bidders were not identified due to either the poor quality of the bid or they did not pass the required financial standing as part of the evaluation, and no market interest was received for Lot 8 Skegness/Spilsby.

The Midlands local dental team is working with the preferred bidders identified for the five awarded lots, to monitor the mobilisation of new practices to enable new NHS general dental services in Spalding, Boston and Louth to commence delivery on 1 March 2020.

Interim urgent dental care arrangements to enable patients in Spalding and surrounding areas to access urgent dental care have been extended until the end of March 2020 whilst the new general dental services to be delivered by the 8 to 8 practice is established.

Mablethorpe

In November 2018 Bupa Dental Care decided to withdraw from provision of NHS dental services in Mablethorpe and gave the required three-month termination notice period to end their contract in February 2019. The provider cited recruitment difficulties leading to their decision to serve notice to terminate the contract.

We fully appreciate the impact of this has had on the local population and are working hard to address this issue.

A review of interim options has been considered and we recently re-advertised for expressions of interest from existing providers to deliver urgent dental care sessions from the dental practice based in the Marsico Medical Centre, Mablethorpe for a twelve month period. Expressions of interest have been received and these are currently being considered and further dialogue is taking place with the interested parties. The aim is to commission urgent dental care sessions in Mablethorpe from mid to late February 2020 for a period of twelve months whilst the longer term option is finalised.

Future Commissioning Intentions to Improve Access to General Dental Services

NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands remains fully committed to ensuring patients have access to NHS dental services and continue to work to improve provision of dental services in Lincolnshire.

In light of the recent procurement outcome, longer term commissioning intentions are being reviewed to improve access to general dental services in Lincolnshire. To support developing commissioning intentions to procure new dental services in 2020/21, the local dental team are liaising with national colleagues to explore the possibility of commissioning dental services using one of the two dental prototype commissioning models. Recent feedback suggests that this would be attractive to new entrants into the market to deliver services. The dental prototype contract model comprises of activity and capitation, and as described above is a different approach to remuneration than a pure activity model. We are also exploring the options available under flexible commissioning approaches and whether these may enhance the service model and increase market interest in the local area.

A further dental market engagement event is being planned to seek feedback on any new service model(s) and to attract new entrants to the market. This will inform, and support proposed commissioning intentions to procure general dental services in the Spalding, Mablethorpe and Skegness/Spilsby areas in 2020/21.

Orthodontics Services

Orthodontics is the dental specialty concerned with facial growth, development of the dentition and occlusion, and the assessment, diagnosis, interception and treatment of malocclusions and facial irregularities.

Orthodontic treatment is undertaken in situations where it is believed to be in the patient's best interests in terms of their oral health and/ or psychosocial wellbeing. In all situations, the clinical advantages and long-term benefits of orthodontic treatment should justify such treatment and outweigh any detrimental effects.

In 2006, Department of Health guidance was issued to support the implementation of the new dental contract for specialist services and recommended that Primary Care Trusts, who were the commissioner at that time, award a time limited (five year) PDS Agreement for Orthodontic Services. This was followed by an extension of contracts until the Orthodontic Commissioning Guide was published in September 2015 and was followed by an extension to the existing contract arrangements to maintain access and continuity of care. These were ultimately extended as part of the nationally agreed extension of contracts to 31st March 2019, or beyond, depending on the Regional timeline for procurements. In Lincolnshire the current PDS orthodontic agreements are due to expire on 1 May 2020.

The regional teams across England have been working towards commissioning new orthodontic services since September 2015. The local teams have been undertaking a process of refreshing public health orthodontic needs assessments, strategic planning, setting out commissioning intentions, undertaking patient consultations, and then progressing with the procurement processes.

As part of this process and given a course of orthodontic treatment ranges from 18 months to 3 years in some cases, national contracting and payment arrangements have been established to support continuity of care for patients during this procurement period.

The service being commissioned and procured is to deliver orthodontic treatment to those patients up to the age of 18 years old who meet the eligibility criteria. The service is aimed at those patients who require orthodontic procedures outside the remit of general dental practitioners or hospital services. The overall aim is to provide equitable, accessible, high quality and cost effective specialist Orthodontic Service in line with the National Guide for Commissioning Orthodontics, 2015 and NHS Personal Dental Service Contracts (Regulations 2005) and any subsequent revisions.

Regions had phased procurements in stages, the Midlands and East Regions were the last region to commence a Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System in 2018/19.

The procurement was progressing and moving to preferred provider status outcomes in areas of the former Midlands and East regions, however the Midlands and East Regions recently made the decision to abandon the procurement.

The reason for the abandonment of all batches was that having very carefully reviewed this process in detail and after receiving legal advice, NHS England decided that it was unable to make an assured, unequivocal award. Issues were identified in the scoring of the bids and how the process dealt with multiple bids from the same/similar providers. Existing incumbent providers will receive communications from NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands regarding extensions to current contracts within the next few weeks.

The new regional teams in the Midlands and East are currently considering the options to re-procure the services. The timescales for this are not yet agreed and any announcements concerning any future procurement process for the provision of these services will be made accessible to all potential suppliers.

The National team is planning an exercise exploring lessons to be learnt from the orthodontic procurement and intends to commence this process in the Midlands and East Region in early 2020. All key stakeholder views will be captured at that time.

Dental Recruitment and Retention

All dentists delivering services as part of an NHS contract are required to be registered with the General Dental Council and need to be included onto the national performer list to ensure they are suitably qualified and trained to deliver NHS dental services in NHS England.

It has been identified there is a significant local issue with recruiting dentists to work within the NHS across Lincolnshire and it is acknowledged that this is becoming an increasing pressure nationally.

The Local Dental Network (LDN) Chair for NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands has established a working group to review the recruitment and retention issues being experienced and to develop a strategy to improve the dental workforce in Lincolnshire. To inform the strategy, feedback has been sought from dental performers and providers on factors impacting on recruiting and retaining dental workforce. An options appraisal is being undertaken to develop the recruitment and retention strategy on a short-term and long-term basis. To support improving dentist recruitment, NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands is developing a business case to establish an international recruitment dentist pilot for Lincolnshire based on the successful GP international recruitment programme.

The LDN Chair has attended and presented at a national workshop on the recruitment and retention issues identified in the local area and an article has been published on the barriers to recruitment in a rural setting.

In November 2019, a careers event for school children was held in Lincoln to promote dental workforce pathways and the presentation will be circulated to schools in Lincolnshire. The presentation is available at:

<https://aallybocus.wixsite.com/thedentalfamily/careers-in-dentistry>

A presentation to promote working as a dental care professional in Lincolnshire has also been developed for circulation to all stakeholders including dental core trainees and foundation Dentists, this is available at:

<https://aallybocus.wixsite.com/thedentalfamily/practicing-in-lincolnshire>

The number of dental foundation training places in Lincolnshire has recently increased to four places and we continue to work closely with Health Education England to promote and to encourage NHS dental providers to apply to become foundation dentist's mentors in the local area.

Two fellows have been recruited to work in Lincolnshire to support delivering the Local Dental Network work programme. The fellows are supporting the Lincolnshire Special Care Dentistry Service and managing specific LDN work projects with supervision from the LDN Chair.

Two joint posts for dental core trainees, where the trainee will spend part of their week based in United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust and part of their week in general dental practice in Lincolnshire has been advertised. It is planned the two pilot posts will commence in September 2020.

A Performer List by Validation of Experience (PLVE) process has been established. The PLVE process is to enable non-EU qualified dentists to be assessed by Health Education England to determine that they have the knowledge and experience equivalent to that of a dental practitioner who has satisfactorily completed foundation training. This enables providers across the Midlands area to access a PLVE scheme to support with recruiting dentists outside the European Union (EU) area.

NHS England and NHS Improvement - Midlands continues to work closely with Health Education England to develop training programmes to support developing the dental workforce e.g. dental hygienists, therapists and dentists.

NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands can provide an update report on the dental workforce strategy to the Health Scrutiny committee or attend a future meeting if required to discuss the progress and developments being implemented.

2. Conclusion

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

3. Consultation

This is not a direct consultation item.

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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