


Agenda Item 6

 Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL <i>Working for a better future</i>		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

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	22 July 2020
Subject:	Chairman's Announcements

1. General Dental Services in Lincolnshire

NHS England / Improvement has issued a letter to stakeholders. From 8 June NHS Dental Services have been allowed to reopen, following their closure for face-to-face consultations in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

Most practices continued to provide virtual or telephone consultations and prescriptions during the closure. Urgent dental care centres were also opened to treat patients with urgent needs. These urgent dental care centres will remain available as general dental services recommence their services.

Enhanced infection control measures include the requirement for each surgery to be left for an hour between patients prior to deep cleaning. All practice staff need to use personal protective equipment (PPE). There should be no additional charges for NHS patients over and above the payments that are normally required.

The advice is to minimise face to face care and in particular to minimise the number of aerosol-generating procedures, such as the use of drills or suction, which include simple procedures such as a scale and polish. Where these procedures cannot be avoided, enhanced PPE is required.

It is unlikely that most practices will be in a position at this stage to offer routine checks up except to the most vulnerable patients.

As of 26 June, information has been received from 36 of the 69 NHS dental practices in Lincolnshire. All 36 of these have confirmed that they were open for non AGP procedures in June. 20 providers plan to be open for AGP procedures in June and a further 12 in July. There are currently seven urgent dental care centres in Lincolnshire providing care for those patients who do not have access to a regular dentist or whose dentist is not yet offering the full range of services.

2. Deputy Chief Dental Officer for England

Dr Jason Wong MBE, who has been a partner at the Maltings Dental Practice in Grantham, has been appointed Deputy Chief Dental Officer for England. Jason will work alongside the Chief Dental Officer, Sara Hurley and the other Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Eric Rooney.

Jason in his role as Chair of the Lincolnshire Local Dental Network Chair has joined colleagues from NHS England in presenting on several occasions to the Health Scrutiny Committee on dental services in Lincolnshire. The Committee is invited to consider whether to send a letter of congratulation to him.