

Subject:	Dental Services for Brighton & Hove Residents		
Date of Meeting:	02 December 2009		
Report of:	The Director of Strategy and Governance		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Members are asked to note information presented by NHS Brighton & Hove concerning the local performance of dental services (contained in **Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4** to this report).

1.1 (a) **Appendix 1** consists of a report from NHS Brighton & Hove on city dental services;

(b) **Appendix 2** consists of a map of dental activity/access across Brighton & Hove;

(c) **Appendix 3** consists of the report which went to HOSC the last time this issue was debated (February 2009);

(d) **Appendix 4** contains statistics on city dental performance.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That members note the contents of this report and its appendices, and determine whether they require any further updates on this issue.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 In March 2009, the HOSC received a report from NHS Brighton & Hove on the local performance of dental services (i.e. performance following the introduction of a new national dental contract in 2006).

3.2 The committee heard that many aspects of city dental care were performing well: often considerably better than national/regional averages. In particular, members were told that city NHS dental capacity was sufficient to cope with local demand. However, committee members did express concerns about some aspects of performance. These included:

- Attendance at dental practices – following the introduction of the new dental contract, the city experienced a significant fall in dental activity (mirroring the national trend). At the March 2009 HOSC meeting, members were told that local activity was now rising, although it was still some way below pre-2006 levels. It was not, however, clear at this point whether the long term trend was upward .
- ‘Signposting’ – at the March 2009 HOSC meeting members were informed of a range of activities undertaken by NHS Brighton & Hove to direct people to local dental practices with spare NHS capacity. It was not, at this time, clear how effective these initiatives had been.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 This report has been prepared following informal consultation with officers of NHS Brighton & Hove.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are none for the council

Legal Implications:

5.2 Legal advice has not been sought on this report for information

Equalities Implications:

5.3 NHS Brighton & Hove is responsible for ensuring that NHS dental services are readily accessible to all city residents, including people from communities which may typically experience poor access to healthcare services - e.g. homeless people, people with mental health issues, people from BME communities, and people from localities in which relatively few dental services are sited (dental practices are

independent businesses and cannot be required to operate out of any specific locality, so the spread of dental practices across an area may not necessarily map with population density etc). Members may be interested in ascertaining what steps NHS Brighton & Hove has taken to ensure that city NHS dental services can be accessed by the entire local community.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None identified

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None identified

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The NHS provides dental care for the entire population which is subsidised or free at the point of delivery. However, take up of these services is typically patchy (in both national and local terms), with many people who are entitled to NHS care not receiving any treatment at all. Since poor dental health can have a major impact upon the quality of people's lives, and since those least likely to access NHS dental care may tend, on average, to come from the most disadvantaged parts of the local community, encouraging more use of available NHS dental services will help achieve the council priority to "reduce inequality by increasing opportunity".

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1 - 4. Information provided by NHS Brighton & Hove

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

