



## ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMISSION October 2007

### Report of the Chair of Adult Services and Health Commission

#### Dentists

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To consider and comment on the request from the Patient and Public Involvement Forum to review public access to NHS dentists

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 According to the Derby PCT Patient and Public Involvement Forum majority of the cases dealt with by the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) involve patient inability to access NHS dentists. The attached letter requesting the Commission to review the provision of dental care in Derby states that 61% of enquires relate to the difficulty in accessing NHS dentists.
- 2.2 Some members may recall the Social Care and Health Commission received a presentation in July 2005 from Ken Wragg, a Consultant in Dental Public Health for Derbyshire following an invitation to the PCT in April 2005. The Commission had asked how NHS dental services were being provided in the city and in particular to look at:
  - Oral health of the residents in the city and how it compares with other cities in the region
  - Dental health of children and vulnerable groups
  - Promotion of oral health and preventative work being carried by the PCT's
  - Access to NHS dental health services in the city for routine, occasional and out of hours treatment
  - Number of dental practices offering NHS services and those accepting new patients.
- 2.3 Patient and Public Involvement Forums were created by the Government in December 2003 to represent and provide a voice for local people about the quality of health services. They were given amongst others a power to refer issues of concern to them to their local overview and scrutiny committees.

- 2.4 Members are asked to consider the request for a review provision of dental care in the city.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597 <a href="mailto:mahroof.Hussain@derby.gov.uk">mahroof.Hussain@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1. Implications Appendix 2

## Appendix 1

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Financial

1. None

#### Legal

2. Social Care and Health Act 2001 gives power to the Commission to review health provision in the city. NHS Reform

#### Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

#### Equalities impact

4. Effective scrutiny benefits all sections of the Community.

#### Corporate Priorities

5. These proposals support the Council's objectives of healthy, safe and independent communities.

Hi Mahroof,

Thank you for seeing me on Monday, I much appreciated the time you gave me.

Further to our discussion I would like to request that the OSC review the provision of dental care in Derby as we are receiving information that people are not getting or are finding difficulty in locating NHS dentists willing or able to treat them.

Examples of this are in August the PCT PALS organisation received 250 out of 404 enquiries (61% of total) about dental issues. 96 enquiries were specifically about NHS fee paying patients wanting to find a dentist to treat them. If this represents people who have spoken - how many are just carrying on without treatment?

A National Survey being undertaken by PPI Health Forums has had such an overwhelming response that publication of the report has had to be delayed until 15 October due to the volume of information received.

The Local Dental Committee have told us that the new NHS contract is very difficult to work with and acts as a disincentive for them to universally treat NHS patients. I have the name of the LDA spokesperson who could be contacted for the dentist view of the current situation.

The new contract does not require patients to register with a dentist so either side can walk away after a treatment which leaves the patient with no protection should a dentist no longer wish to treat them causing loss of care when most needed.

There is a waiting list of 8 to 10 months for Domiciliary visits for the house bound - how would any one wish to be in pain for that length of time?

Anecdotal evidence from speaking to people has shown that there is a general concern about what is happening in this area.

I would be grateful if you could let me know if the OSC is prepared to look at this subject and what further information/action we can take to get the subject reviewed.

Regards,

Steve Studham  
Member of Derby City PCT PPI Forum