

AGENDA ITEM: 4

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

16 JULY 2010

**DENTAL SERVICES:
ACCESS & PROVISION IN MIDDLESBROUGH**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representatives of NHS Middlesbrough, in attendance to provide information to the Panel in respect of access to, and the provision of, Dental Services in Middlesbrough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the information presented by NHS Middlesbrough.
3. That the Panel considers whether it wishes to investigate the topic any further, or keep the matter under review, to be revisited at an appropriate juncture.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The Panel will recall at the start of the municipal year, a number of topics were considered for inclusion in the Health Scrutiny Panel's work programme for 2010/11. Along with a number of topics requiring fairly detailed investigation, it was agreed that the Panel would receive an update on the access to, and provision of, Dental services in Middlesbrough.
5. Members of the Health Scrutiny Panel will recall seeing publicity in recent years about shortages in Dental Services and the perceived inability to access NHS Dental Services. When considering the work programme for 2010/11, the Panel expressed a strong interest in learning about the picture in Middlesbrough.
6. To provide this information, NHS Middlesbrough will be in attendance at today's Panel meeting. Specifically, NHS Middlesbrough has been asked to provide information on the following themes:

- 6.1 Are there any Department of Health expectations of NHS Dental Capacity in relation to the population of a given area?
- 6.2 What is the detailed picture of need and capacity in Middlesbrough?
- 6.3 How does Middlesbrough compare across the region and nationally?
- 6.4 Are there any concerns or challenges to face presently or in the future regarding accessibility of NHS Dentistry?
7. NHS Middlesbrough has supplied data addressing the above questions and that data is outlined below, with answers from NHS Middlesbrough in italics. It is anticipated that NHS Middlesbrough will speak about the data outlined below, picking out the salient points, ahead of dealing with any questions from the Panel.
8. The Panel is asked to consider whether it wishes to investigate the topic any further, or keep the matter under review, to be revisited at an appropriate juncture.

Are there any DoH expectations of NHS Dental Capacity vis a vis the population of a given area?

There are DH expectations of NHS Dental Capacity. However, these are not related to the population of a given area – they relate to historical activity during the 24-month period 2004 – 2006.

What is the detailed picture of need and capacity in Middlesbrough?

Gresham, Middlehaven and Clairville wards have significantly low levels of access to dental services, despite [Gresham and Middlehaven] having dental practices between one and two miles and [Clairville] between 2 and 2.5 miles.

There are 14 general dental practices in Middlesbrough, from which in 2009/10 we commissioned 344,000 units of dental activity [UDAs]. As patients require different levels of treatment, this will equate to individual numbers of UDAs being used for individual patients. In Middlesbrough, the average number of UDAs per person is 3.2. Therefore 344,000 UDAs equates roughly to treatment for 107,500 people [or approximately 77.3% of the population of NHS Middlesbrough].

A number of dental practices are participating in the PCTs access programme and offer evening and weekend appointments.

How does Middlesbrough compare across the region and nationally?

NHS Middlesbrough compares well for access, both regionally and nationally. The table overleaf identifies the total patients seen as a percentage of the population in the previous 24 months, together with a national and Strategic Health Authority rank.

Are there any concerns or challenges to face presently or in the future regarding accessibility of NHS Dentistry?

The main challenges facing the PCT are to:-

- *increase access to patients, and*
- *improve the oral health of the population*

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. No background papers were used in the production of this paper.

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	31 March 2006 [baseline]	30 Sept 2008	31 Dec 2008	31 Mar 2009	30 Jun 2009	30 Sept 2009	31 Dec 2009	31 Mar 2010	At 31 Mar 2010 National Rank	At 31 Mar 2010 SHA Rank
England	55.8	52.9	53.4	53.5	53.8	54.2	54.7	55.1	-	-
North East SHA	63.7	60.6	60.9	60.8	60.9	61.0	61.2	61.5	1 st of 10	-
NHS Middlesbrough	74.3	69.3	70.0	71.7	72.1	72.2	72.4	72.4	3 rd of 152	1 st of 12

