

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

23 APRIL 2014

CHANGE IN PROVISION - BRIEFING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the scrutiny panel with a briefing on a number of minor changes to Dental and GP provision in Middlesbrough.

BACKGROUND

2. Under last year's changes to the NHS, responsibility for provision of dental care moved from Primary Care Trusts to NHS England. The Teesdent Dental Practice opened in January 2011 and is based within Teesside University providing dental services to around 1,400 patients (the target is for around 3,000 to be registered with the practice). The panel has been informed that the practice has not been able to achieve sufficiently high patient numbers for the contract to be run effectively, there has also been a high turnover of patients. The practice has worked closely with NHS England to try and resolve this issue but has now concluded that it is unsustainable and the provider has served notice to terminate the agreement with effect from 30 April 2014.
3. The NHS Area team is working with the practice to ensure the smooth closure of the practice and the transfer of patients to local practices. Each patient has received a letter regarding the closure of the practice. The letter advises patients of the alternative practices nearby that are currently accepting new NHS patients, that information also includes details of the distance from the University Dental Practice.
4. For any patients currently receiving treatment, they are advised to contact Teesdent to discuss whether the treatment can be concluded before the practice closes, and if not, are advised that the team will help them to make alternative arrangements with another provider. People are encouraged to contact an alternative practice as soon as possible to ensure continuity of care.
5. The letter to patients also contains a list of Frequently Asked Questions, to help advise patients. (A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix 1)

Service Review

6. The Council has also been notified about a service review which is about to take place regarding a local GP practice. As a report is still being prepared, further details on this from NHS England, Durham, Darlington and Tees Local Area Team will be submitted nearer to the date of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. It is recommended that the scrutiny panel note the information contained within the briefings and that the Scrutiny Support Officer writes to NHS England to advise them of the panel's comments on these issues should there be any.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in this report.

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