



EDUCATION DIRECTORATE – A RESPONSE TO CMT FOR THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL – DENTAL HEALTH

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To respond to the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Panel on Dental Health.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

2. In May 2004 the Council's Health Scrutiny Panel approved its final report with recommendations regarding Dental Health. The report made 14 recommendations that are far reaching in their effects for the work of both the LEA and the PCT.
3. The main thrust of the report deals with the issue of making dental services more accessible to specifically targeted groups, including children and asylum seekers.
4. The Education Directorate enjoys an extremely good working relationship with the PCT and officers have consulted in the preparation of this initial response to the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations.

Scrutiny Recommendation 1

That the Local Education Authority (LEA) work with the PCT to incorporate dental and other healthcare facilities in schools under the "Building Schools for the Future" and "Extended Schools" programmes.

Comment

There are currently advanced plans for joint healthy/community facilities as part of the Sure Start Children's Centres development. All Sure Start Local Programmes have multi-disciplinary teams that include staff with PCT and Education specialisms.

It is not possible at this time to be able to commit to the concept of developing dental and other health care in the Building Schools for the Future and Extended Schools programmes. There is certainly a willingness to create multi use facilities and discussions are well advanced in some sites. Schools are clearly partners and need to be consulted and there is some concern from officers in the PCT that whilst school based dental practices may be good for children, they might not be seen as appropriate venues for other dental practice users.

Scrutiny Recommendation 2

That the LEA put an item on the agenda for the next meeting of each school governing body asking Governors to consider:

- *Developing a “Brush Bus” scheme to encourage children to brush their teeth in school, building on the experience from the north east.*
- *Implementing a reward scheme for healthy eating at lunchtimes.*

Comment

The Director of Education will arrange for Governors to be briefed on the “Brush Bus” scheme and will arrange for the PCT to circulate schools with the necessary information regarding this scheme.

Healthy eating schemes are already implemented in Middlesbrough schools.

Scrutiny Recommendation 3

That the Sure Start Local Programmes develop “Brush Bus” schemes.

Comment

Sure Start Local Programmes will be asked to consider the “Brush Bus” schemes as part of their Health Care development programmes. The scheme is one of several promotions that link healthy eating to care of the teeth. Dental care already forms part of the health programmes used by our five Sure Start Local Programmes.

Scrutiny Recommendation 4

That the Council’s Asylum Seeker Support Service work with partner agencies to pool resources via a one stop shop health information service for asylum seekers and refugees.

Comment

Clearly the Education Service engages with Asylum seekers at many levels. The Refugee & Asylum Seekers Education Service, specific schools, Sure Start, Youth Services and Adult Education services all engage directly with Asylum Seekers. The comments above will apply here, bearing in mind the specific issue that dental care of Asylum Seekers is below an acceptable level, as outlined in the Scrutiny Panel report.

Scrutiny Recommendations 5-14

5. Recommendations 5-14 are aimed specifically at the PCT. Whilst PCT officers will clearly lead on any actions arising from these recommendations, it is expected that appropriate council staff will co-operate fully in implementing integrated services for our citizens.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

6. In responding to the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations, officers have considered the option presented by each specific recommendation. In Recommendation 1, more work is required to consider the implications and wider risks involved.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

7. Further consideration needs to be given to this area, particularly with regard to Recommendations 1 & 2.
8. The implications are clearly for all wards of the town.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. That the Action Plan that forms the Appendix to this report be approved, including the actions added to this report by the Executive Director of Environment & Neighbourhood Services.

REASONS

10. The implications of the Scrutiny Panel report needs to be discussed in far greater detail with key stakeholders (namely schools) and key partners (namely the PCT).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
 - The Health Scrutiny Panel report on Dental Health – May 2004

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ACTION PLAN FROM SCRUTINY REPORT**

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
1. That the Local Education Authority (LEA) work with the PCT to incorporate dental and other healthcare facilities in schools under the “Building Schools for the Future” and “Extended Schools” programmes.	To consider the implications of this with respect to 1. Resources 2. Implementation of proposals with partners	1. Terry Sutcliffe for Building Schools for the Future 2. Andy White for the Extended Schools Programme	Unknown at present	Over next 2 years
2. That the LEA put an item on the agenda for the next meeting of each school governing body asking Governors to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a “Brush Bus” scheme to encourage children to brush their teeth in school, building on the experience from the north east.• Implementing a reward scheme for healthy eating at lunchtimes.	The “Brush Bus” scheme will be discussed at a Governors Forum meeting in the Academic Year 2004/05	Andy White will arrange an appropriate presentation to the Schools Governor Forum	£50.00	During Academic Year 2004/05
3. That the Sure Start Local Programmes develop “Brush Bus” schemes	Information regarding the “Brush Bus” scheme will be discussed at all Sure Start Local Programme Board meetings and	Andy White/Heather McNeill	No initial cost. Implications for Sure Start Local	By December 2004

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
	staff will decide locally if the scheme can compliment existing work.		Programme Budgets	
4. That the Council's Asylum Seeker Support Service work with partner agencies to pool resources via a one stop shop health information service for asylum seekers and refugees	The Scrutiny Panel report will be discussed with officers responsible for the Schools Refugee and Asylum Seekers Service	Andy White	No initial cost	July 2004
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Councils Asylum Seekers Support Service will arrange a meeting with key partners to discuss how the existing resources of the Haven Practice and the Asylum Seekers Resource & Initiative Centre can be best utilised to provide information regarding NHS services. 2. Information regarding NHS services and education on appointment keeping etc will be drafted and passed to Health for comment. Following approval this will be included within the Council's welcome pack for new asylum seekers arriving 	<p>Asylum Seekers Support Service</p> <p>Lead Officer – Louise Twell</p>	<p>Unknown at present pending discussions on proposed action with key partners.</p> <p>Costs will be minimal as existing resources will be utilised such as Resource & initiative Centre, Haven Practice and existing welcome packs.</p>	<p>Meeting with key partner to be scheduled by end July 2004.</p> <p>This issues will also be highlighted at the next Asylum Seekers consultative Forum in July.</p>

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
	<p>to the town and the information will be forwarded to other housing providers to include within their own welcome packs.</p> <p>3. The Haven Practice provides health information to all asylum seekers arriving in the town, and liaison will be undertaken with this service to consider additional information provision concerning dental hygiene to all clients.</p>			
	<p>N.B. Whilst awareness on NHS services can be raised and the requirement to keep appointments etc, it is not possible for the Council's Asylum Seekers Support Service to require additional dentists to offer services to people seeking asylum, this service can only work with key partners to raise the educational awareness of asylum seekers concerning the NHS.</p>			