



Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee 25th March 2024

DENTAL SERVICES

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Debbie Stovin, Dental Programme Lead



Agenda Item 9



The Dental Recovery Plan

'Faster, simpler and fairer: our plan to recover and reform NHS Dentistry' was published by the Government and NHS England. This plan commits up to £200m of non-recurrent funding in 2024/25 to support access to NHS dentistry and improve preventative care.

Page 2 The Plan has three broad elements:-

- **Prevent poor oral health** by promoting better oral health in Family Hubs and settings that provide Start for Life services
- Address an urgent need to **boost access and activity** with an immediate impact
- Support and develop the whole dental workforce and **build capacity for the long term** which includes more dental therapists, hygienists, dental nurses and dentists able to treat more patients



1. Preventing Poor Oral Health (Public Health & Local Authority led initiatives)

Smile for Life: a new prevention programme for oral health focused on younger children

- Interventions include:
 - promoting prevention initiatives in Family Hubs to improve the oral health of pregnant mums, and guidance for parents on children's oral health
 - support for early years settings to incorporate oral hygiene routines
 - mobile dental teams being deployed into schools in under-served areas to provide advice and deliver fluoride varnish

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The Government plan to take forward consultation on expanding a water fluoridation programme:

- Reduce the number of tooth extractions due to decay in most deprived areas of the country
 - a consultation on expanding water fluoridation in the North-East



2. Addressing an urgent need to boost access and activity

Interventions include:

- An increase to the minimum Units of Dental Activity(UDA) value to £28 from 1st April 2024
 - Y&H tariff £34.31.
 - 7 SY practices are on less than £28 per UDA – all will be uplifted from 1st April 2024, retaining current levels of contracted activity resulting in uplift of the Total Contract Value.
- A new patient premium paid to practices for appointments with **new** NHS patients (1/3/24 - 31/3/25)
 - Band 1 = £15 per patient
 - Band 2 and 3 = £50 per patient
 - ultimately enables practices to achieve contract targets sooner,
 - potential risk on contractors who are achieving their contracts where access may be reduced for the regular patients due to focus on incentive payment
 - Practices can 'Opt in' or 'Opt out' – *no SY practices have opted out!*
- A dental van service – SYICB are not identified for this initiative
- 'Golden Hello' payments to attract dentists to areas of need - £20k over 3 years. *Locations not yet decided. Awaiting further guidance.*



3. Supporting and developing the whole dental workforce, and building capacity for the long term

- **Encouraging better ways of working & skill mix:**
- The plan commits to workforce growth and development in line with the Long-Term Workforce Plan:
 - Supporting and developing the whole dental workforce using the skills across the entire dental clinical team - **In SY flexible commissioning arrangements enable practices to make better use of the skill mix, plans in place to expand this way of commissioning**
 - Bringing forward legislation to enable dental care professionals to work to their full scope of practice – awaiting legislation change
- **Delivering the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan:**
 - Expansion of dental undergraduates training places by 40%
 - Consult on 'tie-ins' to NHS for dentist graduates
 - Expand dental therapy and dental hygiene undergraduate training places by 28%
 - Encourage more dental nurses and technicians into programmes
 - Making it easier to recruit more overseas dentists – **in SY there are plans in development to do this.**
 - **ICB developing SY workforce plan.**



Dental Funding

Existing dental funding

SY dental budget in 2023/24 is £112.7m per year. SY agreed non-recurrent spending of **£4.3m in 2023/24** to fund urgent access sessions in primary care and estimated **£12.2m non recurrent in 2024/25** (subject to change) as the year end position is confirmed.

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Ring fence of NHS Dental budget for 2024/25

Impact of recovery plan

We don't yet know how much of the plan will be centrally funded and how much may need to come from existing ICB allocations.

The publicised funding for the national plan is £200m in 2024/25

More detail is to follow from the NHSE team.



Dental Services Board Paper – 6th March 2024

Purpose:-

- Update on ongoing work (challenges, current position, developments)
- To seek support on 3 key principles:-
 1. Commitment to utilise the ring-fenced funding for dental services (as per National commitment) including non-recurrent monies (commonly known as clawback), with a proportion on a two-year basis.
 2. Commitment to take a level of risk on more innovative ways for commissioning of services, building on existing flexible commissioning approaches.
 3. Support for the priorities identified from the dental budget and outline of the principles of the investment plan for 2024/25.



Challenges:-

- Access & inequalities – some practices have significant waiting lists
- Workforce
- Dental contract
- Units of Dental Activity (UDA) tariff variance
- Contract/UDA handbacks



Current position:

- Digital platform shows practices accepting new patients (*however many have waiting lists, patients may be on more than one list*)
- Latest figures for access (*to 30th June 2023*) in SY amongst adults and children show an improving picture across all four places.
- There is significantly better access in SY than in England overall
- Children in SY experience higher levels of tooth decay than both regionally and nationally.



Access Comparisons

Adult patients seen by an NHS dentist in the last 24 months and child patients seen in the last 12 months as a percentage of the population for local authorities in South Yorkshire and England overall

LA	% seen to 31 Dec 2019		% seen to 31 Dec 2020		% seen to 30 June 2021		% seen to 31 Dec 2021		% seen to 30 June 22		% seen to 30 June 23	
	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child	Adult	Child
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	61.4	68.0	55.5	29.8	51.4	31.9	43.7	47.1	45.4	52.8	51.1	59.1
Doncaster Council	66.2	66.0	58.7	31.6	53.3	32.7	45.6	45.6	47.6	50.4	63.4	60.5
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	59.6	61.7	55.7	28.7	51.4	32.3	44.8	42.9	46.8	46.8	51.9	55.0
Sheffield City Council	59.4	68.0	55.2	32.8	52.5	36.4	46.3	49.6	48.6	54.1	50.3	61.2
England	49.6	58.4	44.3	29.6	40.8	32.5	35.5	42.5	36.9	46.2	40.7	52.7

Source: NHS Digital

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-dental-statistics/2019-20-biannual-report>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-dental-statistics/2021-22-biannual-report>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-dental-statistics/2021-22-annual-report>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-dental-statistics/2022-23-annual-report>



Developments:

- Flexible Commissioning – *population evidence-based prevention*
 - *Review by ICBs to be more ambitious underway*
- Urgent Access Sessions for patients experiencing poorest oral health
 - *6692 additional sessions (approx. 46,844 appointment) commissioned in 2023/24*
- Improving access for those experiencing homelessness
 - *x2 pilot sites: Sheffield (Oct'23) & Doncaster (Nov'23)*
- SYB Acute Federation Paediatric Innovator Programme (Dental)
- 2 Week Wait electronic referrals – *launch in 2024/25 Q1*
- Dental practice service reviews – *securing NHS dentistry, improving patient access e.g. NHS111 appt slots, extended hours*



Commissioning Intentions 2024/2025

Key principles:-

- Current non-re-current programmes extension up to a further 12 months
 - Flexible Commissioning – current 61 practices
 - Urgent Access Sessions - current levels
 - Homeless pilots
- Utilising evidence from the Oral Health Needs Assessment/locality profiles
- SY Dental Stakeholder Event feedback on priorities
- Consultation with Local Dental Committees and Local Dental Network



Key Priorities

- Improving access for patients
- Workforce Initiatives
- Children and Young People
- Orthodontics
- Domiciliary / Housebound
- Digital *(longer term/recurrent commitment required)*
- Community Dental Service *(longer term/recurrent commitment may be required)*

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