

6 April, 2023

Dental Services Briefing (NHS England)

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Health and Wellbeing

1. Aim

To brief the committee and issues relating to dental services in Walsall.

2. Recommendations

To note the report and identify any further information required.

3. Report detail – know

The report sets out the current state of dental services, types of services and the recovery and restoration activities of commissioners. It summarises the impact of the pandemic and outlines future investment.

4. *Financial information*

N/A.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

The pandemic has brought health inequalities into focus and investment and restorations schemes have focussed on improving access for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Through the Local Dental network relationships with local authority and third sector colleagues being developed. Commissioning responsibility is being devolved to ICBs from 1.4.23 and this offers greater opportunities to focus on inequalities at a more local level, given the “at scale” focus of NHSE.

6. Decide

N/A

7. Respond

Any recommendations from the Committee will be shared with ICS colleagues for review and response.

8. Review

Access to dental services is a local and national priority and is under regular review. There are 2 mandatory review periods: in October and after financial year end. Access and activity levels are reported by the BSA and based on contractors' submissions. All dental activity is recorded and submitted to the Business Services Authority which houses national dental data. Reports are available at different frequencies and may deal with patient numbers and or activity delivered, and the type of activity delivered. The dental team regularly monitors and reviews additional information from complaints, NHS111, clinical networks and other stakeholders. There have been some contractual changes however it is too soon to assess the impact. Further changes are anticipated which will enable commissioners to remove activity from underperforming contracts without the providers consent, though there will be specific circumstances and timescales to be met and this amendment has not yet received parliamentary approval.

Commissioners propose updating the Committee on dental matters; and respectfully suggest that this would be most helpful in April 24, when recovery is advanced, and the contract amendments have had time to take effect. In addition, commissioning responsibility passes to ICBs on 1.4 23 and this should be borne in mind.

Background papers

None

Author

Tracy Harvey

Senior Commissioning Manager: Pharmacy, Dental and Optometry for The Black Country and Birmingham and Solihull.

✉ tracy.harvey1@nhs.net