

By: Paul Wickenden, Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 11 June 2010

Subject: Item 5. Further Information on Dentistry.

1. Background

(1) The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee examined the issue of out of dentistry at its meeting on Friday, 26 March 2010.

(2) During the course of the discussion, colleagues from NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS West Kent agreed to supply further information to answer a range of enquiries from Members. The following questions were submitted to both NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS West Kent and the information received is attached:

1. Financial allocations. Can you please provide comparative data showing where your PCT resides in the national and regional table for dental funding? How is this allocation determined?
2. Dental charges. Is there any information available on the number and/or reasons for people refusing to pay NHS dental charges, perhaps extracted from PALS data?
3. Mobile dentists. Is there any mobile dentistry provision within your PCT area, and is this something you have considered?
4. The gypsy and traveller community. What specific actions have you undertaken in order to ensure dental care is provided to the gypsy and traveller community? More generally, what actions are you taking to ensure dental care is provided to hard to reach groups?
5. Dental screening of children. To what extent is it carried out within your PCT area, have you any plans to extend this further and what evidence have you considered for and against the benefits of screening?

2. Recommendation

(1) Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the information supplied.