

Item 6: Dental commissioning in Kent

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 26 January 2022

Subject: Dental commissioning in Kent

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS England/ NHS Improvement South East.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1) Introduction

- a) NHS England is responsible for commissioning primary dental care services to meet local needs and priorities, managed through local area teams.
- b) Contracts are issued to independent providers based on an oral health needs assessment which identify the level of dental need for a particular community.
- c) Contracted providers fulfil a certain number of “units of dental activity” (UDAs) in return for an annual amount of money.
- d) The Committee received a paper at its 21 July 2021 meeting, setting out how dental services were provided during the height of the pandemic along with information about a number of procurement exercises for new services. No representatives were present at that meeting, and following discussion the committee:

RESOLVED that the report be noted, and an update paper be brought to the Committee once the cited new services had been established.

- e) The new dental services included in that paper were in Minster, Canterbury, Tonbridge, and Swale. Following a request, the Chair agreed that the density of provision across age groups be included in the update.
- f) NHS England South East have been invited to attend today’s meeting and answer questions from the Committee about dental provision in Kent.

2. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

Background Documents

Item 6: Dental commissioning in Kent

Kent County Council (2021) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (21/07/21),
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8758&Ver=4>

Contact Details

Kay Goldsmith
Scrutiny Research Officer
kay.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk
03000 416512