

Item 10: Kent Community Health NHS Trust: Community Dental Services (Written Update)

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6 June 2014

Subject: Kent Community Health NHS Trust: Community Dental Services (Written Update)

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by Kent Community Health NHS Trust.

It is a written update only and no guests will be present to speak on this item.

It provides additional background information which may prove useful to Members.

1. Introduction

- (a) Kent Community Health NHS Trust requested the opportunity to bring the attached report to the attention of the Committee.
- (b) In March 2014, Kent Community Health NHS Trust informed the Committee of proposed changes to the gum disease clinic in Deal and the community dental service at Folkestone Dental Clinic, subject to consultation with patients and staff. Details of the consultation were circulated to Members of the Committee on 10 March 2014.

2. NHS Dental Services - Overview

- (a) NHS dental services are provided in primary care and community settings, and in hospitals for more specialised care. NHS England directly commissions all dental services for the NHS. There are over a million patient contacts with NHS dental services each week.
- (b) Dentists working in general dental practices are independent providers from whom the NHS commissions services. They are responsible for whom they employ within their own dental teams and for the management of their practices. It is common for dental practices to offer both NHS-funded and private services.
- (c) The NHS in England spends around £3.4bn per year on dental services; the value of the private market is estimated at £2.3bn per year.
- (d) 21 Dental Local Professional Networks have recently been established across England to promote a strategic, clinically informed approach to

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the planning and delivery of dental services that reflects the needs of local populations.

- (e) Adult patients make a financial contribution for receiving dental care from the NHS unless they meet certain exemptions. There is a 3-band fixed charge for primary care treatment depending on the care provided by the dental practice. The dental charges system contributed £653m to the NHS budget last year.

2. Recommendation

Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the report.

Background Documents

NHS England, *Improving Dental Care and Oral Health - A Call To Action*, February 2014

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/imprv-oral-health-info.pdf>

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