

Item 8: Kent Community Health NHS Trust: Community Dental Services
(Written Update)

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30 January 2015

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 an update 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.
- (c) On 6 June 2014 the Committee considered a written update on the outcome of the consultation and the Trust's decision to proceed with the changes. The Committee's deliberations resulted in agreeing the following recommendation:
 - *RESOLVED that the report be noted and that written clarification circulated to the Committee in regards to the percentage of local patients who were seen at the Deal Clinic and the commissioner's view on the changes to community dental services.*

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

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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 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.

3. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

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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