



Scrutiny Committee Report

Committee	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
Date	4 DECEMBER 2023
Title	DENTISTRY BRIEFING
Report of	ISLE OF WIGHT DEPUTY PLACE DIRECTOR, HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT INTEGRATED CARE BOAD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This paper provides a briefing to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care to note on the progress being made in improving access to dental services for Isle of Wight residents.

RECOMMENDATION

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| 2. This paper is for the Scrutiny Committee to note and discuss as necessary. |
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BACKGROUND

3. As previously raised by the Committee, the provision of NHS dentistry on the Isle of Wight does not meet the need of our residents. Concerns are regularly raised to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and to Healthwatch, and improving access is considered a key priority.
4. Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB is responsible for commissioning primary care dentistry according to the needs of the local population since responsibility was delegated from NHS England in July 2022.
5. The HloW ICB priorities for dental commissioning are as follows:
 - Mandatory Dental Services (MDS) – General Dental Services (GDS)
 - Dental Electronic Referral System (DERS) – allows dentists to refer to tier 2 and 3 services
 - Community Dental Services (Special Care Dentistry)
 - Specialist Services:
 - Restorative Dentistry (Endodontics, Prosthodontics, Periodontal treatment).
 - Unscheduled Care (Urgent)
 - Orthodontics
 - Oral Surgery
 - Sedation

6. The Healthcare Public Health Team reviewed the commissioned GDS and compared it with the dental need in HloW. They proposed the following considerations for future commissioning:
- Commissioned activity (UDA's per head of population) should ideally be highest in the most deprived areas and lowest in the least deprived areas.
 - Additional funding should be given to where additional recurrent activity is most likely to be achieved
 - The Isle of Wight has the highest commissioned activity across HloW but evidence suggests dental access issues here are the most pronounced – this issue requires system working, involving all parties, and goes beyond simply commissioning additional activity.
 - In the longer term, review activity requirements across the lesser deprived areas of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
 - Other models of delivery may need to be considered outside of traditional GDS contracts.
 - An integrated approach to reviewing complex issues of recruitment and retention, and other possible methods of delivery, is recommended.
 - A system-wide focus on wider oral health improvement beyond issues of dental access is also recommended.

ACTIONS

7. Three actions have been agreed in the first instance which will specifically impact the Isle of Wight population:
- Dental Bus – a dental service based in a mobile vehicle successfully used elsewhere on the mainland will come to the Isle of Wight to offer treatment. The treatment will be on a prioritised needs assessment basis and will start to address inequalities. Anticipated January 2024 start date with locations to be confirmed. This is subject to final procurement and contract advice.
 - IOW stabilisation pilot – A two-year funded pilot to increase the rate of Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) paid to existing or new practices to address the recognised additional costs of providing services to our Isle of Wight residents. This remains with NHS England to approve at present but we are hopeful that this will start in quarter 4 of 23/24.
 - Additional Capacity – 15,000 additional funded Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) provided to existing or new Isle of Wight Dental practices to increase capacity on the Island. This capacity is contracted and has been offered to residents.
8. There remains much more to do but after a significant period of a lack of an Isle of Wight response to concerns we are now beginning to see improvement actions following devolution of dental commissioning to a more local level.

9. Additionally, the ICB has a draft dental strategy currently in circulation to partners for comment which describes how we intend to plan, commission and deliver dental services in the future. Advisory workshops are being held across November and final feedback will be incorporated during December 2023.

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