Dental Services – Commissioning Issues and Investment Plan 2009-11

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform the Committee of a presentation to be received today on Dental Services (Commissioning and Investment Plan 2009-10).

Issues for Scrutiny

2.1 To receive the presentation and to consider any issues arising.

2.0 Background

3.1. The Committee last took an update on Dental Commissioning Issues at its meeting in July 2009. The update today will include progress in providing more equitable access to NHS Dentistry across the county and future commissioning plans. Details will also be included in respect of the Oral Health strategy for the area.

3.2 Access to NHS Dentistry has been a particular concern of Cumbria LINk over the last year and they have carried out their own patient survey in respect of the three Oasis Practices at Maryport, Whitehaven and Egremont and raised their concerns with NHS Cumbria about access to NHS Dental Provision in Longtown.

3.2 We are please to welcome Eric Rooney, Consultant in Dental Public Health and Leanne Fawcett. Dental and Oral Health Commissioner, both of NHS Cumbria, to today’s meeting.

Paul Glazebrook
Health Scrutiny Manager
29 June 2010
Appendices

Dental Commissioning & Investment Plan 2009-2011 - Update for Health & Well being
Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2010

Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions
[including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decisions.

Background Papers

None

Contact:
Paul Glazebrook, Health Scrutiny Manager
01228-221015
Paul.glazebrook@cumbriacc.gov.uk
Appendix

Dental Commissioning & Investment Plan 2009-2011

Update for Health & Well being Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2010

1. Update since presentation in July 2009

The Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee received a detailed briefing on the Plan in July 2009. The original plan was formulated from the Oral Health Strategy and described in detail how the PCT was going to commission additional capacity to increase access to the local population, develop clinical networks to support the commissioning of specialist Dental services e.g Orthodontics and Restorative Dentistry, and to raise the profile of Oral Health Improvement locally.

This paper summarises progress under these three main headings

• Actions to improve access to NHS Dentistry

  West Cumbria and Kendal

  The new practices in Whitehaven, Workington Egremont, Maryport and Kendal were just opening at the time of the presentation last July. Since then all 5 Practices have opened and will ultimately deliver 37500 additional places. In line with the PCT plans for the first year of operation 16,000 people will have been placed with an NHS Dentist in West Cumbria and a further 2500 in Kendal.

  Demand for these new places has been extensive and because we specified a service based on prevention and the promotion of oral health, we are finding that numbers entering the treatment phase are taking longer than expected., at this stage. Consequently, patients are finding that their periods between appointments are longer and this has also impacted on the numbers recently being allocated from the database. We are continuing to meet regularly with Oasis Dental care to ensure that the expectations of the public and the PCT are fulfilled.

  Carlisle: Keswick: Barrow and Millom

  A tender was awarded in March 2010, also to Oasis Dental care, to provide a further 22,000 places at the above locations. .

  The Carlisle Practice, will also incorporate teaching of dental students from Carlisle Dental Education Centre from September 2010, the beginning of the students final year.

  Keswick will have a new Practice located in the Packhorse shopping centre (subject to planning approval) There has not been an NHS Dentist for adults in Keswick for a number of years.

  The new service in Barrow will focus on engaging with groups of the population who in the past have been hard to reach. The new provider will be expected to use an
Oral Health Needs Assessment approach to identify individuals and families currently not accessing NHS Dentistry.

In Millom, again it is several years since the local adult population had its own NHS Dentist, with residents having to travel to other parts of Cumbria or worse still be without the services of an NHS Dentist. Initially, the new Provider will establish a locally based facility in Millom, but should the development of the Community Hospital take place as planned over the next 2/3 years, then the service will re-locate.

All of the above developments are at the stage of seeking planning approval with the intention of the first patients being seen in August 2010.

Patient database

Earlier, reference was made to the numbers allocated to the new Practices in West Cumbria and Kendal, and to the ongoing demand for NHS Dentistry. Dental Commissioners have also worked closely with Practices in Appleby: Wigton: Ambleside: Ulverston and Sedburgh to increase the ability of those practices to take on new patients. To date 5,000 patients have been allocated in this way.

In the region of 25/30 patients apply to join the database each day. There are currently 24,500 people waiting for a Dentist.

- Clinical networks

The Oral Health Strategy identified the establishment of Clinical networks as key to defining service development priorities for the Specialist Dental Services i.e. Orthodontics: Minor Oral Surgery and Restorative Dentistry.

All clinical networks established to date are led by the Secondary Care Consultant with input from Special Practitioners at primary care level, General Dental Practitioners with an interest, the Consultant in Dental Public Health and Dental Commissioners

Orthodontics

Two networks have been established, reflecting the different Hospital footprints in the County.

Recently, two new tenders have been awarded to complete the vision of the Clinical network, whereby each main area of Cumbria has its own Primary care based Specialist Practitioner. The new services in Carlisle and Whitehaven commence in July 2010 and this will mean that there are specialist services in Carlisle: Penrith: Cockermouth: Whitehaven: Kendal and Dalton-in-Furness.

Oral Surgery

A Clinical network for this speciality was set up about 12 months ago following a review of oral surgery. Since then, a series of meetings have resulted in the commissioning of a number of sessions based in primary care from appropriately skilled Dentists. These sessions commenced on 1st April 2010 with the objective of treating minor oral surgery cases more appropriately in primary care than secondary care.
Restorative Dentistry

A clinical network to develop better access for more advanced restorative care, particularly endodontics (root canal treatment) has been operational since 2008. The network has established referral guidelines and treatment protocols which reduce the reliance on secondary and private care and provide these services closer to home for patients. A dentist with special interest in endodontics has been commissioned to provide this service in the south of the county and discussions have started on developing this approach in the north.

- Oral Health Improvement

NHS Cumbria’s Oral Health Improvement Commissioning and Implementation Plan has been developed following a revision of the Oral Health Improvement section of Cumbria PCT’s Oral Health Strategy and Commissioning Plan 2007 – 2012. The aim is to build on the work undertaken within NHS Cumbria since the implementation of the national reforms to NHS Dentistry and focus on a more preventatively focused service which increases access to routine NHS dentistry as well as increasing the quality of the services provided to those already accessing NHS dental care.

*The Independent Review of NHS Dentistry in England* led by Professor Jimmy Steele highlighted how much more can be achieved through better coordination of effort throughout the whole dental system. The review found that the quality of dentistry and commissioning needs to be brought up to the highest standards, which will lead to better use of the resources invested, and an increased focus on quality and prevention. The Department of Health (DoH) has launched an implementation programme to implement, through piloting, the key recommendations of the independent review. The overarching aim is to ensure that the NHS dental service moves from a service focused on activity, to one that is a true oral health service. The Steele review recommended extensive piloting and robust evaluation of its key proposals to test the right range of incentives to promote access, quality and oral health improvement.

During 2009/10 NHS Cumbria been working with a number of practices to develop an Oral Health Improvement Programme (OHIProg) which is described in detail below. The OHIProg has been accepted as a Pioneer (Wave 1) Pilot with the aim of demonstrating how Commissioners and Providers can develop services which ensure all members of the community get evidence-based self-management advice, preventive care and the opportunity to access local dental services.

As there are a number of risk factors for dental and oral diseases which are common to other major public health problems such as obesity, diabetes, cancer and coronary heart disease, the OHIProg recognises the need for joint working across both NHS and non-NHS organisational and professional boundaries if the oral and general health of the population of Cumbria is to be reciprocally improved.
It is likely that practices involved in the programme will be looking to form links with local nurseries, schools or older peoples settings and in addition to providing clinical support will be looking to work with the providers and staff of these services to increase awareness of the measures that they can take to promote oral health in their establishments.

The pathway which providers will need to follow when participating in the OHI Prog ensures that they assess the needs of their local community and identify gaps in provision, capacity and capability. This will ensure that only practice and community-based interventions which are appropriate to their local circumstances are commissioned.