
REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	17 SEPTEMBER 2008	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	JOHN PORTER (5780)	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\overview and scrutiny\17 sept 2008\briefing note - nhs dental provision in south derbyshire.doc
SUBJECT:	BRIEFING NOTE – NHS DENTAL PROVISION IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE	REF: PJJ/JP/SH
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with some background information regarding the provision of NHS dental provision in South Derbyshire and to determine the next course of action.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee invite the Commissioning Manager – Dental for Derbyshire County PCT, to the next meeting of this Committee on 29th October 2008 to outline the services currently provided and those proposed and to respond to Members' questions.

2.2 A list of potential questions be compiled and agreed by the Chairman in advance of the meeting.

2.3 In view of the proposal (elsewhere on this agenda) to invite another Officer from the PCT regarding the Out of Hours Service on 29th October 2008, it is further proposed that the Committee invite the PCT to first outline their current structure and how the community of South Derbyshire is served by the NHS.

3.0 Background

3.1 At the previous meeting of the Committee it was agreed to establish the current position regarding the existing and future NHS dental provision in South Derbyshire.

3.2 In April 2006, the Government implemented reforms to NHS dental provision.

3.3 These reforms include the introduction of a new contract from April 2006, which is to encourage more dentists to deliver NHS dentistry; and new responsibilities and resources for Primary Care Trusts (PCT) to ensure that local dental services are sufficient to meet local needs.

- 3.4 For many patients this must mean a local service in their community, as they are not able to manage the cost or inconvenience of travelling long distances to access dental services. For instance, a recent survey of rural dentists undertaken by the British Dental Association for the Commission for Rural Communities found that 30% of rural dental practice patients have to travel between 5 and 20 miles to a dental practice.
- 3.5 In planning new dental services, PCT's must ensure that they provide equality of access across their area, so meeting the needs of patients, rather than, for example clustering service provision where it is easier to deliver.
- 3.6 The administrative district of South Derbyshire covers an area of about 340 square kilometres and has a population of 91,200 (ONS Mid 2007 Estimate). For almost two decades, South Derbyshire has been the fastest growing district in Derbyshire. Most of this growth can be attributable to new developments in the urban area of Swadlincote and on the fringes of Hilton and Derby and current rates of growth are expected to continue.
- 3.7 Over a third of the population live in and around Swadlincote, the district's administrative and commercial centre. The rest of the district is mostly rural in character and as a result, the Department of Food and Rural Affairs has classified the district as 'significantly rural'.
- 3.8 Derbyshire County PCT is responsible for the delivery of dental services for the majority of South Derbyshire residents. However, for those residents living in the Melbourne area this responsibility lies with Derby City PCT.

Existing NHS dental provision in South Derbyshire

- 3.9 There are 86 and 31 NHS dental practices with the Derbyshire County PCT and Derby City PCT areas respectively.
- 3.10 Within the district of South Derbyshire there is currently provision for 6 NHS dental practices. (Five of these being provided by Derbyshire County PCT). The number of existing NHS dental practices and their locations are:

Practice Name	Address
Swadlincote	
16a Dental	16a High Street, Swadlincote
Alexandra Road Dental Care	54 Alexandra Road, Swadlincote
Swadlincote Dental Practice	Blueberry Work, Blueberry Way, Hartshorne Road, Woodville
Delph Dental Practice	Unit 3, Market Street, Swadlincote
Etwall	
C D Thomas	44 Main Street, Etwall
Repton	
None currently	
Melbourne	
Davis, Fry & Baker	24 Potter Street, Melbourne

- 3.11 As a further example, there are 89 NHS dental practices, located within 15 mile radius of Swadlincote, as summarised below:

Distance from Swadlincote (miles)	Total Number of NHS Dental Practices	Location and Number of NHS dental practices
3 - 4	12	Ashby de la Zouch (4) and Burton on Trent (8)
4 – 8	4	Repton; Burton on Trent; Melbourne and Sinfin
8 – 12	46	Etwall; Tutbury; Coalville (2); Mickleover (3); Derby (21); Littleover (2); Alvaston; Castle Donington; Tamworth (9); Shepshed (2); Nuneaton; Market Bosworth and Borrowash
12 – 15	27	Allestree; Spondon (2); Lichfield (7); Derby; Tamworth; Loughborough (9); Rugeley; Long Eaton (3) and Atherstone (2)

3.12 The locality of the nearest NHS dentist can be found at www.nhs.uk

Impact of the changing NHS framework

3.13 It is considered that when PCT 's take strategic decisions about dental care, they should be aware of rural specific issues. For example, these could include considering the introduction of incentives to encourage and retention of dentists in rural areas; ways to improve access such as satellite and mobile clinics and the use of networked ICT solutions, such as teleconferencing for diagnostics. Also the amount of domiciliary care provision within rural communities could be increased in order to meet the demands of increasing numbers of older people with more complex dental needs.

3.14 PCT's are now required to engage with other service providers to create appropriate solutions so that rural residents can access dental services more easily.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None arising from this report.