

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 NOVEMBER 2017
ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review current access to dental care and the impact on the oral health of Nottingham residents.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to explore current access to dental care and oral health services and the impact that this has on the oral health of Nottingham residents and identify if any further scrutiny is required.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The oral health of people in Nottingham, particularly children and young people is relatively poor and this can have wider health implications. There is often a perception that there is a lack of access to dental services so the Committee wanted to explore whether this is a problem in the City and the impact of any access issues on the oral health of Nottingham residents.
- 3.2 In 2009 the then Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee carried out a review of dental care. The review found that, at that time, although many people thought it was hard to find an NHS dentist there were actually plenty of dentists with space for NHS patients. However, areas for improvements were identified, for example exploring ways to improve access for vulnerable adults, increasing health promotion with adults, improving access to out of hours services. The commissioning and provision of dentistry services has changed since that time so the Committee wanted to explore if, and how the situation has changed.
- 3.3 NHS England has responsibility for the commissioning of dental services and the Local Authority has a role in prevention. A joint paper is attached providing information on the commissioning of dental services in the City, recent developments in dental commissioning and provision nationally and locally and the oral health work currently commissioned in the City. Representatives of both organisations will be attending the meeting to present this information and answer questions.
- 3.4 Healthwatch Nottingham has also been asked if it has any evidence regarding access to dental services that it would like to share at the meeting.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Paper from Nottingham City Council Public Health and NHS England
'Access to oral health in Nottingham City'

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Report of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee 'Review of Dentistry' September 2009

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

- 8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 8764315