

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

**Wednesday 24th January 2024**

Present: Councillor Bill Armer (Chair)  
Councillor Beverley Addy  
Councillor Jo Lawson  
Councillor Alison Munro  
Councillor Habiban Zaman

Co-optees Helen Clay  
Kim Taylor

In attendance: Karen Huntley, Healthwatch Kirklees  
Hayden Ridsdale, Integrated Care Board  
Katherine Wormstone, Integrated Care Board  
Mark Smith, Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust  
Rachel Foster, Locala  
Sandra Oats, Locala

Observers: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje  
Councillor Jackie Ramsay

Apologies: Councillor Itrat Ali

- 1 Membership of the Panel**  
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Itrat Ali.
- 2 Declaration of Interests**  
No interests were declared.
- 3 Admission of the public**  
All items were considered in public session.
- 4 Deputations/Petitions**  
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 5 Public Question Time**  
No questions were received.

**6 Dentistry and Oral Health**

The Panel welcomed Karen Huntley from Healthwatch Kirklees who provided feedback from the community on dentistry as follows:

- Issues in accessing routine or preventative dentistry,
- Information on how to access urgent dental care,
- Mental health issues around no access to dentistry,
- Removal from NHS dental list due to missed appointments or not visiting a dentist for some time,
- NHS choices website not updated,
- Confusion around eligibility to free dental care.

Questions and comments were invited from Members of the Panel and the following was raised:

- In relation to removal from NHS waiting lists, the Panel was advised that removal was due to not attending a dentist through Covid or missing appointments for good reason,
- Regarding the NHS places lost, there was a very long waiting list, sometimes for years, Healthwatch were rarely able to access places,
- The number of people that were aware of Healthwatch, and who had contacted them due to issues around dentistry was approximately 16 per quarter.

The Panel welcomed Hayden Ridsdale, West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), to the meeting to provide information regarding dentistry across Kirklees.

The Panel was advised that the ICB became the responsible commissioner on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, and on 16<sup>th</sup> May outlined the ambition of the ICB. Since May the team had been working on rapidly delivering the investment plan, growing the team, and supporting the profession to stabilise the transformation. It was noted that the feedback from Healthwatch was very receptive and they welcomed conversations and engagement with Healthwatch and the Panel.

The Panel was informed that national action was required to reverse significant challenges, namely contract reform, workforce planning and finances for dental. It was noted that the ICB's ambition was about immediate, medium-, and long-term plans, in the immediate term £6.5 million investment plan for dentistry had been spent, which included employing to 3 roles to the West Yorkshire team, that added capacity to undertake the work that was required, such as attending panel meetings or engaging directly with patients. In the medium term it was about how flexible commissioning worked well and workforce planning and over the long term it was how service models were transformed with substantive public health interventions.

Mr Ridsdale presented information on NHS Dentistry in Kirklees which included (i) the current context (ii) Urgent dental care (iii) Paediatric Dentistry and (iv) Access and oral health data. Updated figures on access to dentistry was provided. For adults in the last 24 months and children in the last 12 months, up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 55% of adults had accessed an NHS dentist in Kirklees, which compared favourably with Yorkshire and Humber and England average. Children in the last 12 months, 63% of children had accessed an NHS dentist which also compared

## Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 24 January 2024

favourable to Yorkshire and Humber and England average. It was noted that 31.2% of children up to the age of 5 had a visibly experience of dental decay.

Mark Smith, Deputy of Operations, Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust provided an overview of the service and advised that the trust provided secondary care oral and maxillofacial service across Wakefield and Kirklees, and support colleagues in Locala with access to theatre. Dental treatment was not something that the trust was involved with as they dealt predominantly in secondary care dental service.

Questions and Comments were invited from Members of the Panel and the following was raised:

- In relation to a question on inequalities between Huddersfield and Dewsbury, it was noted that health inequalities had not expired. Locala had continued to take people across the population who were serviced through CHFT. Further information on inequalities to include detailed data on practices on a ward basis was requested,
- In relation to the £6.5 million spent and the issues with the lack of dental nursing staff required for theatres of paediatrics, it was noted that colleagues with expertise on work planning, identifying priority staff groups and working with the University of Huddersfield in designing courses would improve those issues. Locala advised that dental nurses were not an issue within Locala,
- Further to a question on the length of time paediatrics were on a list for surgery, it was noted that there were waits of over a year in some areas, part of that was historical due to the inability to deliver dental extracts over the Covid 19 period, along with not having theatre space to catch up.
- Regarding data on children attending accident and emergency, the Panel was advised that although there was not a split in data from adults to children, data did show that one and half years prior to Sept 2023 there were 2000 people who attended Calderdale, and 4000 that addended Mid Yorkshire. The panel requested data of people attending accident and emergency who were registered with an NHS dentist.
- The Panel heard that at a Scrutiny Panel, approximately one year prior that the problem of paediatric extractions was due to a lack of availability of theatre space, it was noted Mid Yorkshire were working hard to improve theatre space,
- In relation to a question regarding the lack of NHS appointments, the ICB advised that NHS appointments was a particular challenge nationally, but was one of their priorities to look at.
- Further to a question on the trial of upskilling practitioners, and when the pilot would start, it was noted that a 12-month pilot programme had started in January 2024 with check ins to look at how that was going.
- The Panel heard that in terms of a patients journey for urgent treatment, the commissioning of the urgent care system had been extended for the duration of 2024. Across West Yorkshire there was approx. 1000 appointments less than required. The system had an inbuilt triage where patients should be offered an appointment as soon as possible.
- In relation to a comment from Healthwatch Kirklees regarding communication from the ICB to the public on services available to them, it was agreed that where services were available, communication would be circulated to the public, Healthwatch, Ward Councillors, and Chairs of Scrutiny Panels.

## Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel - 24 January 2024

- In relation to dentistry in under 5 year olds, It was noted that one third of patients had dental decay under the age of 5, the ICB agreed that further work was required in this area.
- The Panel heard that West Yorkshire Joint Health Scrutiny Panel (WYJHOSC) had considered dentistry in more detail. Recommendations from the WYJHOSC Panel were that the Committee was to receive information from the ICB on timeframes for ongoing plans, hot spot data, progress being made on increasing communication, workforce plans and for 6 weekly updates on progress vision of the plans be circulated. It was noted that the Chair and Deputy Chair had written to the government on the national dental contract.
- In relation to a question asked from Wakefield's perspective on wait times for dental services, and if wait times were similar in Mid Yorkshire as they were to North Kirklees, it was noted that they were, however progress was being made to find a long-term solution to reduce waiting times.
- In relation to how far children had to travel for theatre services, it was noted that the location for theatre services across Kirklees was CHFT. Early discussions were taking place in Mid Yorkshire regarding their timescales for theatre services.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That officers be thanked for the presentation and their attendance at the meeting,
- 2) That further information be provided to the Panel around people attending accident and emergency who were registered with an NHS dentist,
- 3) That further information be provided on inequalities between Huddersfield and Dewsbury,
- 4) That the presentation be noted.

## **7 Work Programme 2023/24**

A discussion took place on the 2023/24 work programme and forward agenda plan.