

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 DECEMBER 2016

DENTISTRY SERVICES IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to receive an overview of Dentistry Services in Worcestershire from NHS England, including potential changes over 2017, as contracts are re-procured.
2. The overview will include lessons learned from the closure of St John's Dental Practice in May 2016.

Background

3. NHS England is responsible for ensuring that everyone has access to a dentist, and across the West Midlands, commissions 590 dental contracts; this includes 24 (3.9%) time limited contracts of which 9 are in Worcestershire.
4. Short term contracts provide extra activity and give flexibility to review capacity which can re-allocated over time as needs alter due to demographic changes.
5. As part of re-procurement of short term contracts within Worcestershire, the HOSC has been informed that there may be some changes to some dental services in Worcestershire over the coming months.
6. NHS England is in the late stages of negotiating with providers of time limited contracts with the intention of converting these into longer term contracts. For those contracts which do not convert, a procurement process is underway.

Purpose of Meeting

7. Members are invited to consider and comment on the information provided about potential changes to some dental services in Worcestershire – in doing so, the HOSC may want to consider:
 - feedback from conversations with the affected dental practices as short term contracts are re-procured
 - what public engagement is planned?
 - alternative provision and access
 - lessons learned from the closure of St John's Dental Practice in May 2016, around which concerns were reported to several HOSC members.
8. Following the discussion, HOSC Members are asked to consider whether any further information is required at this stage.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the Proper Officer (in his case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of:

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 June 2016, available on the website [here](#)