

Health Select Committee

A meeting of the Health Select Committee was held on Monday 5th June 2006.

Present: Councillor Mrs Womphrey (Chairman), Councillors Dixon, Frankland, Harrington, Lupton, Noble, Roberts, Mrs Robinson, Sherris, Teasdale and Woodhouse (vice Councillor Coombs).

Officers: G Birtle, Miss F Shayler (LD); Ms L Hegarty (North Tees Primary Care Trust).

Also in attendance: B Clasper (Dentist – Fairfield, Member LDC), A Hide (Practitioner – Stockton Town Centre, Secretary of LDC), P Woodhouse (Dentist), P Avery (Dentist – Billingham), M Smith (Dental Advisor).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Apedaile, Coombs and Mrs Nesbitt.

231 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roberts declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of NHS Dental Provision as she was a patient of Mr Hide.

Councillor Mrs Womphrey declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda no. 4 Review of NHS Dental Provision as she was a Patient of Mr Avery.

Councillor Woodhouse declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 Review of NHS Dental Provision as his son was his dentist.

232 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

233 Review of NHS Dental Provision

A presentation was provided to members by Malcolm Smith, Dental Advisor, Tees Primary Care Trust.

Members were provided with a brief history of the General Dental Practice (GDP) that had been operating since 1948. Figures were provided on Dentist to Population Ratios and NHS Dental Registrations.

The new contract was aimed at providing an integrated NHS Primary Care Dental Service. It was PCT led and commissioned and its aim was to be customer focused, with preventative and evidence based treatments with simplified charges.

The key changes were as follows:-

- Local commissioning and funding
- New method of remuneration for GDPs
- Prevention and oral health assessment for patients
- Clinically agreed protocols
- Larger specialist practices
- Development of dental team
- Patient Experience

The opportunities and threats of the new Contract were provided to Members together with the vision for the future in 2009.

Discussion was held on UDA (Units of Dental Activity) funding and it was felt that there was a lack of consistency across Dental Practice's due to the over complicated formula for calculating UDA's.

Research needed to be undertaken in the North East to identify local people's needs. To ensure that the best use of public monies was made. Dentists needed to be consulted and involved in the process as they were not involved in discussions when the new contract was developed.

Concluded that the comments be noted and the next meeting be held on Monday 26th June, 2006.