

Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 26th June, 2006.

Present: Councillor Mrs Womphrey (Chairman), Councillors Apedaile, Coombs, Dixon, Harrington, Noble, Perry (vice Councillor Lupton) and Mrs Robinson.

Officers: G Birtle, Miss F Shayler (LD); N Schneider, A Glossop (DNS).

Also in attendance: Mrs E Chapman (North Tees Primary Care PPI Forum), R S Atkinson (CPPIH), Ms K Shah (Consultant in Public Dental Health), Mrs J Harrison (North Tees Primary Care Trust).

Apologies: were received from Councillors Frankland, Lupton, Mrs Nesbitt, Roberts, Sherris and Teasdale.

342 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th June 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

343 Review of NHS Dental Provision

Members had invited Mr Schneider (Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services) and Mr Glossop (Planning Officer) to the meeting to discuss opportunities for dental practices to expand or move to larger premises within the borough. Mr Schneider detailed to members a meeting that had been held with a Dentist in Billingham to discuss redevelopment of his practice to be included within the redevelopment scheme that was taking place in Billingham Town Centre. There were many factors to be considered when looking at placing dental and health practices within the borough but each case would be assessed on its own merits. Mr Schneider also indicated that his team could provide advice to dental practices on suitable/desirable locations that could be available within the Borough.

Members had invited Ms Shah to the meeting to provide information on her position as a Consultant in Dental Public Health for the North Tees PCT. Ms Shah provided a service to 10 PCTs in the Tees Valley/ Durham/Darlington area providing advice on oral health, health improvement plans, gathering of dental/ health data, developing dental policies and commissioning services that would improve dental health for the PCTs.

Ms Shah felt that there were three important issues to consider:-

- Access to NHS Services
- Provision and Prevention of Oral Health Services
 - Routine Care
 - Urgent Care
 - Emergency Care
- Commissioning Services

Members held discussion on the three areas of dental care. The PCT was currently going through the tendering process for an out of hours service for

Emergency appointments. The service at present was circulating around dental practices in Stockton and Middlesbrough on a rotation basis and operated weekdays 6pm-9pm and 2 x 3 hourly sessions on a weekend. The Tender was to provide a service 6pm-9am including weekends and bank holidays from October 2006.

Members requested to receive statistics on where the sessions have been held and where the patients have had to travel from. Members had concerns for patients that may not have access to their own transport and how they would get to appointments from Stockton to a surgery that could be being held in Middlesbrough.

Discussion was held on recruiting and retaining Dentists in the area. Four new dentists would be starting in Stockton on Tees and there would a new intake of trainee Dentists. The PCT was trying to encourage Practices to set up in more deprived areas as there was a much higher need due to poorer dental health.

Members held discussion on the lack of communication to the public on the new charging system. Posters were displayed in Dental Practices from February 2006, which meant that many patients would not have seen the information on new charges before their next appointment when the new charges would have already been in place.

Ms Shah detailed preventative measures to improve long term dental health. Nearly all children aged 5 had been part of a dental survey and dental health in Stockton on Tees was 25% poorer than the national average. The benefits of having fluoride in milk and water were highlighted, together with the benefits of educating parents.

Concluded that:-

- 1.The information provided be noted.
- 2.Statistics on where Emergency Dental Sessions had been held and where patients had had to travel from be provided to Members.

344 Acute Service Review - Referral to the Secretary of State for Health

Following the meeting of the Joint Health Scrutiny Meeting on 16th June 2006, Members agreement for Officer delegation to send a referral on behalf of Stockton on Tees Borough Council to the Secretary of State was sought.

Concluded that the Officer delegation to send a referral to the Secretary of State on behalf of Stockton on Tees Borough Council be approved.