

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

12 January 2011

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 MATTERS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OF DENTISTRY

To agree the recommendations from the review.

1.1 The Review

1.1.1 The Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of dentistry provision in the Borough at its meeting held on 24 November 2010. The following conclusions were agreed and were commended to the Cabinet:

- 1) It was felt that many residents seemed to be unaware of how to access and register with NHS dentists. More information about this is needed to promote take up of available capacity.
- 2) Additional planned dental provision in Tonbridge at Quarry Hill was not thought to be accessible to residents in North Tonbridge, particularly by those dependent on public transport. More local provision is needed to the north of the Town to meet these needs.
- 3) There is a need for additional dentistry provision at or near to Kings Hill and provision is needed to serve the rural area to the north west of the Borough.
- 4) More local dentists need to be encouraged to take up NHS contracts. Government is considering the introduction of revised contracts to give more flexibility and greater remuneration which might achieve this. Government plans to require newly qualified dentists to serve a 5 year NHS apprenticeship was seen as a positive idea.
- 5) Community dental services, for example, for those in domiciliary care who are unable to attend a dental surgery, were considered to be inadequate and in need of substantial improvement. All dental surgeries should provide adequate access for the disabled and less mobile.

- 6) The use of silver fillings (which included elements of mercury) and which were the only kind available under the NHS should be phased out in favour of white fillings.
- 7) A key issue in the delivery of new dental services can often be the identification of suitable premises. The Borough Council would be able to assist with the PCT with this process and any subsequent planning matters.
- 8) There was a concern that local dentists taking on NHS contracts had tended to revert to private care after a period of time thus leading to a reduction local NHS dentistry provision. More powers were needed for the PCT to deter these changes from taking place.
- 9) The provision of out of hours emergency dental services needs to be better promoted as some local dentists do offer this service.
- 10) There is scope for greater collaboration between local GPs and dentists. For example, GPs could assist with the promotion of NHS dentistry access and the scope for the co-location of health services, for example, as at Martins Square, Larkfield, could be further explored.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 As considered in the review.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Not applicable

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 That the conclusions and recommendations arising from the Scrutiny review of dentistry **BE ENDORSED**.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The review has sought to ensure additional NHS dentistry provision is made to meet all local needs.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	As above
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.