

Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee

14

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	8 September 2015
Officer	Director for Adult and Community Services
Subject of Report	Briefings for information / noting
Executive Summary	<p>As agreed, briefings are now presented collectively under one report on items that are predominantly for information, but nevertheless are important for members to be aware of.</p> <p>For the current meeting the following updates/briefings have been prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Care Dental Services in Weymouth <p>Should Members have questions about the information contained in these briefings, a contact point for the relevant officer is provided. If a briefing raises a number of issues then it may be appropriate for this item to be considered as a separate report at a future meeting of the Committee.</p>
Impact Assessment: <i>Please refer to the protocol for writing reports.</i>	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not applicable.
	Use of Evidence: Briefing provided by Healthwatch Dorset.
	Budget: Not applicable.

	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW (Delete as appropriate) Residual Risk HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW (Delete as appropriate)</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>The Committee notes and comments on the content of the briefing report and considers whether it wishes to scrutinise the issues in more detail at a future date.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>The work of the Committee contributes to the County Council's aim to protect and improve the health, wellbeing and safeguarding of Dorset's citizens.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>1 Primary Care Dental Services in Weymouth</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Report Originator and Contact</p>	<p>Name: Ann Harris, Health Partnerships Officer Tel: 01305 224388 Email: a.p.harris@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

Dorset County Council



**Briefing for Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee
8 September 2015**

<p>Primary Care Dental Services in Dorset</p>	<p>Contact Name: Annie Dimmick</p> <p>Contact address: Healthwatch, 896 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH7 6BR</p> <p>Email: annie.dimmick@healthwatchdorset.co.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0300 111 0102</p>
<p>Earlier this year, Healthwatch Dorset published the findings of its investigation into Primary Care Dental Services in Dorset (www.healthwatchdorset.co.uk/resources/primary-care-dental-services-dorset).</p> <p>Among the issues identified as needing attention were: difficulties receiving information, difficulties accessing a dentist (especially for people with particular needs), issues with referrals for specialist treatment and issues about charges. Healthwatch Dorset made nine recommendations for action. As a result, NHS England Wessex has developed a draft plan outlining eight actions they intend to take to address these issues. They are also now engaging with Healthwatch Dorset to identify how patient feedback can be embedded into contract management and commissioning of dental services. Once their action plan has been finalised, it will be in the public domain.</p> <p>Following the publication of the Healthwatch Dorset report on Dental Services, we were contacted by a Dorset GP who told us that many GPs are concerned about access to treatment for people suffering acute dental pain, with people being signposted to the wrong services. We subsequently gathered evidence on this issue from nearly 30 GPs across the county. We have shared this evidence with NHS England and with Dorset CCG and they are currently in the process of tracking down where the fault lies in the system.</p> <p>One other issue that was brought to our attention, this time by local voluntary groups, following the publication of our Dental Services report is that of access to dental services for homeless people. As a result, we set up a meeting between Healthwatch Dorset, NHS England Wessex commissioners and a local charity working with homeless people. Commissioners were able to hear directly of homeless people's experiences and difficulties in accessing dental services and, in response, are now developing actions to address the issues.</p> <p>Healthwatch Dorset will be publishing an update on our work around dental services in the autumn, which will report on the outcomes of all the pieces of work outlined above.</p>	