

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Health Scrutiny Committee
Date: 29 November 2023
Report for: Information
Report of: Ben Squires, Director of Primary Care, NHS GM

Report Title

Provision and Access to NHS Dentistry in Trafford

Summary

This paper provides an update on the provision of, and access to, NHS Primary, Secondary, and Community Dental services and delivery of Oral Health Improvement activity across Greater Manchester and specifically Trafford. It will highlight the actions taken to address health inequalities and to improve access to dental services to ensure patients are able to receive dental care and oral health improvement in a safe way

The GM Dental Commissioning Team working with the Dental Provider Board, the Consultant in Dental Public Health and the Local Dental Network Chair, continue to co-develop and implement action to secure recovery of dental services following the pandemic. This will be delivered via the Greater Manchester Primary Care Blueprint.

The Blueprint standardises the approach for primary care, including dental services and supports opportunities at locality-level for actions to meet local population needs that reduce oral health inequalities. A key purpose of the plan is to reduce oral health inequalities and improve dental access by ensuring patients can receive care at the right time, in the right setting and reduce wait times.

An NHS priority is the restoration of all services to pre-pandemic levels and action is agreed to address the backlog of patients following the COVID-19 pandemic including specialist dental services delivered within secondary care. Activity includes:

- Co-develop e-referral management system with robust clinical triage to direct referrals to the right setting at the right time, including referrals from non-dental professionals with potential use of virtual consultations
- Workforce and training for healthcare professionals

More targeted work is outlined in the report regarding addressing inequalities through access to NHS Dental Services for specific or vulnerable groups or cohorts.

Recommendation(s)

Health Scrutiny are asked to note the content of this report and progress to date

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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