

Agenda item: XX

Subject:	Report on NHS Dental Services in North Norfolk (interim report to HOSC members)
Presented by:	
Prepared by:	Fiona Theadom, Head of Primary Care Commissioning
Submitted to:	North Norfolk county councillors
Date:	28 September 2023

Purpose of paper:

To provide interim information and specific data, where available, for North Norfolk prior to a full report to the Norfolk County Council Health and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 November 2023.

Executive Summary:

The ICB became responsible for NHS dental services (primary, community and secondary care) under the Delegation Agreement with NHS England from 1 April 2023.

From early engagement with the Local Dental Committee and Local Dental Professional Network, the Primary Care Commissioning team committed to three priorities in February 2023:

- to listen to the views of the dental profession through an open and honest discussion about the future of dental services in Norfolk and Waveney and how we can support them.
- to consider how we can retain our local dental workforce and allow them to develop their skills and expertise, offer opportunities for them to provide some services in a different way where possible, and also to encourage individuals to come and work in our area.
- to listen to our patients and their lived experience, and to ensure our local population has access to oral health prevention advice and dental treatment when needed.
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In April, the ICB formed its Dental Development Group to bring together clinicians from across the profession in primary, secondary and community care along with other key stakeholders such as local authority Public Health and Healthwatch. The aim of the Group was to provide an informal forum to discuss the challenges and barriers for NHS dental services in Norfolk and Waveney and to identify solutions.

Discussions have led to the development of the ICB's short term plan for 2023/2024 approved by the ICB's Primary Care Commissioning Committee in September and will be described in detail within the HOSC paper for November meeting.

This paper provides information about the North Norfolk locality where it is available.

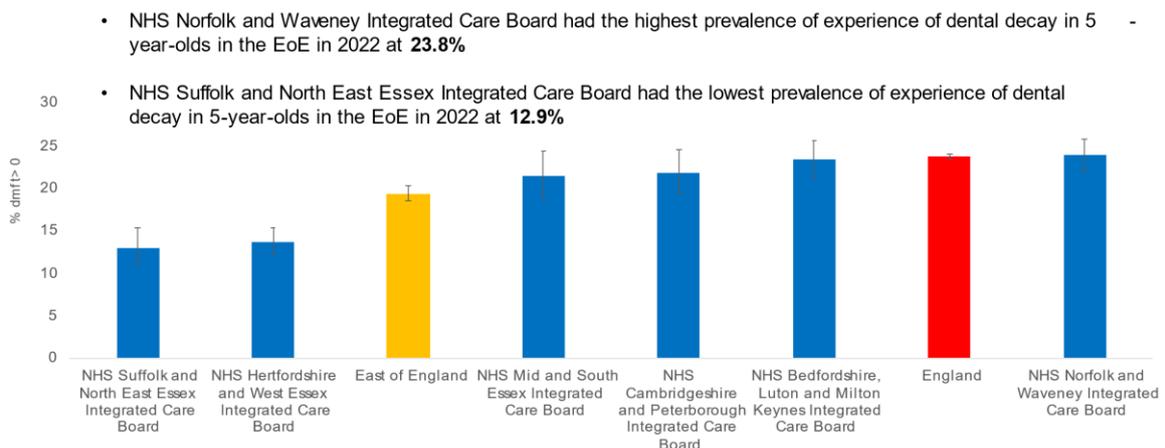
Report

The ICB became responsible for NHS dental services (primary, community and secondary care) under the Delegation Agreement with NHS England from 1 April 2023. Since April, the ICB has spent a significant amount of time engaging with the dental profession to fully understand the challenges facing the provision of NHS dental services and wider engagement with key stakeholders is being planned.

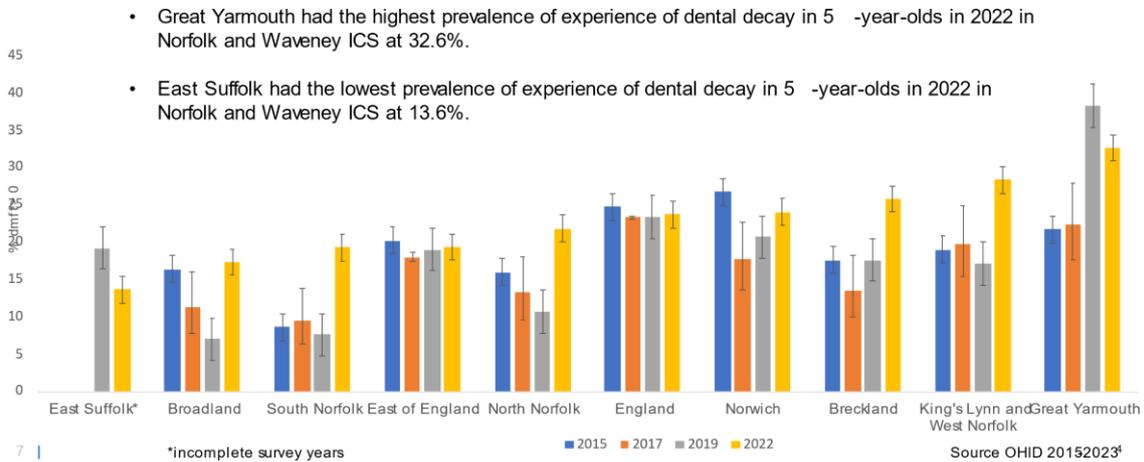
As a result of this engagement, the ICB's Executive Management Team and Primary Care Commissioning Committee has recently approved its short term plan for NHS dental services locally setting out interim initiatives whilst discussions take place to develop our long term plan which the ICB has committed to publishing by March 2024 as part of a wider primary care strategy. Full details will be shared in the paper to HOSC for the November meeting but include plans to improve access and workforce recruitment and retention.

NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board had the highest prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in the EoE in 2022 at **23.8%**

Prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds in Integrated Care Boards across the East of England, 2022.



Trend in prevalence of experience of dental decay in 5-year-olds across lower tier local authorities in Norfolk and Waveney ICS, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2022.



North Norfolk had the second lowest mean number of teeth with experience of dental decay among 5-year-olds with any decay experience in 2022 in Norfolk and Waveney ICS at 2.8 teeth.

There are 8 NHS dental practices in North Norfolk, the map in Appendix A shows the distribution of services across Norfolk and Waveney. It should be noted that there are currently no NHS dental practices open to new patients although this situation is not unique to Norfolk and Waveney.

Within the short term plan, two initiatives are already being mobilised, one is an Urgent Treatment pilot for up to 18 months and the other a short term children's oral health initiative to end of March 2024.

There will be one practice offering to provide urgent treatment appointments as part of the ICB's pilot scheme in the North Norfolk locality from September 2023, patients will be able to contact NHS 111 who will clinically triage their need for urgent appointment and refer to a local practice if appropriate. The ICB will continue to discuss with other practices their participation in the pilot.

Access to Level 2 specialised minor oral surgery services is also available locally and the Special Care Dental Service (known as Community Dental Services) operate out of a hub in Sheringham providing treatment to vulnerable adults and children unable to access general dental services.

The ICB doesn't have access to waiting list information for general dental practices although we're aware that some practices will hold a waiting list. Orthodontic waiting list data is currently being collated and will be used to inform the ICB's long term commissioning plan.

Workforce

We recognise that development of a robust and sustainable workforce model for Norfolk and Waveney is critical to stabilising our existing dental services, upskilling, and developing the workforce, and encouraging individuals to stay or come and work locally.

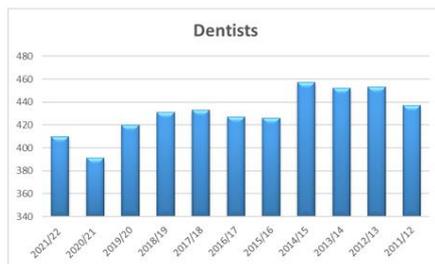
As of March 2021, the ICB was reported as having 410 NHS Dentists, which is the latest national data held. However, we are now collecting a revised version of data including all clinical and non-clinical staff for dentistry as part of a local survey. This information should be completed and analysed by October 2023.



Primary Care Workforce – Dentistry

NHS Digital have published Dentistry workforce figures from 2011 to 2021. At the end of March 2021, a headcount of **410 dentists** were reported, who perform NHS activity across our system.

A summary of the headcount from the period of 2011/12 to 2021/22 is shown below:



91 primary care dental contractors

There is currently no **information available to understand the vacancy levels** for this primary care service or the wider workforce position for the following roles:

- Dental Hygienist
- Dental Nurse
- Dental Technicians
- Dental Therapists



Summary

We believe that successful delivery of the ICB priorities can only be achieved by working in partnership with the dental profession, our other system partners such as secondary and community care, local authorities and organisations such as NHS England's Workforce, Training & Education team, Healthwatch, and universities and colleges in Norfolk and Waveney.

Distribution of local NHS Dental Services in Norfolk and Waveney

