

## **NHOSC Meeting at County Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **Update on Dentistry matter in Norfolk and Waveney**

The ICB issued an update to their Long Term Dental Plan in May 2024. They reported NHS services in Norfolk and Waveney remain very fragile and ensuring existing services are sustainable and resilient remain one of the key priorities in the forward plan.

An investment of approximately £6.2m was agreed for 2024/25. There has been a £1.2m workforce investment with 23 golden hellos. Child focused dental practices are being set up with enhanced expertise in children's dentistry. Children's dental care in schools is the responsibility of public health and concerns were raised about the lack of care in schools. It was hoped that this situation may improve in time.

23 urgent treatment providers are providing an extra 1,900 appointments a month. So far there are no urgent providers in North Norfolk. In response to a question, some assurance was given that there were discussions in there being some provision made in North Norfolk in the near future.

The path going forward is for a dentistry school to be located in Norfolk and Waveney. Evidence shows that newly qualified dentists often remain in the area that they have trained in. This would ease the dental desert situation in the longer term.

### **Women's Health Hub Position Statement**

Norfolk and Waveney ICB was allocated a one off funding of £595,000 over a two year period ending March 2025 to develop Women's Health Hubs. In partnership with Norfolk County Council they are focusing resources on improving access to contraceptive care, menopause services and training community champions to ensure services are provided to vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

Due to the size of funding available the ICB set up a virtual hub to bring together healthcare professionals and existing services to provide integrated women's health services in the community. Hubs are not a replacement for Primary or Secondary care which are still the first point of contact.

Research was carried out into a variety of women's health issues and the data obtained will be used to target specific areas of need moving forward. Various other means of getting the information to women apart from the internet included health centres, community centres etc.

The use of the Wellness on Wheels bus was also considered to be a good method of disseminating information. Reducing Women's health inequalities with this project is another key aim of the ICB. The aim is to use the funding to set up a long term sustainable delivery via already existing channels as funding is limited.