

**Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
6 January 2017**

Dentistry Services at the Richardson Hospital, Barnard Castle

1. Purpose of Report

To provide members of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update in respect of dentistry services at Richardson Hospital, Barnard Castle.

2. Background

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) operated a limited mobile dental service in Middleton in Teesdale two sessions per week and in Bishop Auckland one session per week. Unfortunately in March 2014 the service ceased due to the vehicle no longer being fit for purpose and difficulties in recruiting staff. Prior to this the number of patients accessing the mobile service was in decline as shown below.

	Bishop Auckland Patient Numbers	Middleton In Teesdale Patient Numbers
2011-12	87	216
2012-13	52	206
2013-14	48	197

Alternative provision (two sessions per week) was put in place by CDDFT at Richardson Community Hospital for patients who previously accessed the mobile dental service. This has recently been reduced to two sessions per fortnight in line with demand. CDDFT have confirmed that there have been no complaints regarding any delays in treatment as a result of the recent change.

3. Dental Provision at Richardson Hospital

In addition to the general dental clinics, CDDFT also operate a dental service for patients with special needs from Richardson Hospital, operating a total of 4-6 clinical sessions per month for both specialist dental patients and patients who previously attended the mobile dental service.

The numbers accessing dental services at Richardson Hospital has reduced over the last two years as shown in the table overleaf.

	Richardson Hospital – patients numbers (figures include general dental access patients and patients with special needs)
2014-15	158
2015-16	128
2016-17*	58

* position as at end of Nov 2016

The table below provides a breakdown of patients by ward area:

Wards	2015-16	2016-17
Barnard Castle East	31	12
Barnard Castle West	89	39
Chester-le-Street East	1	
Chester-le-Street South	1	
Evenwood	2	5
Shipley	1	
Aycliffe North & Middridge		1
Sadberge & Middleton St George		1
(blank)	3	
Grand Total	128	58

4. General Dental Access and other provision in the surrounding area

NHS England is currently working with the local dental networks and Consultants in Dental Public Health to review general dental access provision across the whole of Cumbria and North East.

From the work undertaken to date, take up of NHS dental care within the Dales area is particularly good in comparison with other areas of Cumbria and the North East and indeed other parts of England, with 68.64% of the Dales population accessing NHS dental care.

The attached map shows access across the Durham Area, and highlights very good take up rates in the Upper Teesdale area over the last 2 years.

In addition to the dental provision at Richardson Hospital, nine other NHS dental practices operate in the area, including a practice in Barnard Castle that is actively recruiting new NHS patients. The table below provides details of the practices and the distances from Richardson Hospital.

Practice	Opening times	Distance from Richardson Hospital
Castle Dental Practice 39 Galgate, Barnard Castle, County Durham DL12 8EJ Telephone: 01833 631140		0.2
West Auckland Dental Practice, 26 Front Street, West Auckland, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL14 9HW Telephone: 01388 833899		9.9

Oasis Dental Care, 69 Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL14 6HS Telephone: 01388 603164		12.2
Ashby and Atkinson, 23-27 Main Street, Shildon, County Durham DL4 1DY Telephone: 01388 775104		12.3
Oasis Shildon, Limetree House, St. Johns Road, Shildon, County Durham DL4 1LU Telephone: 01388 772678		12.4
Market Place Dental. 6 Market Place, Bishop Auckland County Durham DL15 7NJ Telephone: 01388 602029		12.8
Mr Nayyar, 1 Mill Street, Crook, County Durham DL15 9BE Telephone: 01388 762522		12.8
Burgess and Hyder Group, Victoria Lane Health Centre, Victoria Lane, Coundon, Bishop Auckland, DL14 8NP Telephone: 01388 660372		14.1
Burgess and Hyder Group, Stanhope Health Centre, Dales Street, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland DL13 2XD Telephone: 01388 529945		14.2

In view of the reducing patient numbers accessing the general dental service clinics at Richardson Hospital and the alternative provision available for patients as outlined above, discussions are currently taking place with CDDFT regarding the future viability of the general dental service provision. There would be clear benefits to patients in transferring to the alternative general dental practices in terms of extended access times and availability of dentists.

In the event that a decision is taken to cease the general dental access clinics at the hospital, NHS England will work with CDDFT to ensure that patients are signposted into alternative local NHS provision.

For the avoidance of doubt, there are no plans to change the current provision at Richardson Hospital of dental services for patients with special needs.

4. Recommendation

The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the contents of this report and the on-going discussions with CDDFT with regard to the general dental service provision at Richardson Hospital.

Contact for further information:

Pauline Fletcher, Primary Care Commissioning Manager, NHS England – North, Cumbria and the North East

E-mail: Pauline.fletcher2@nhs.net

Map showing take up rates by Lower Super Output Areas (n = 324) in County Durham described in deciles 1 = best 10 = worst

