

## **Dentistry in North Central London**

### **Commissioning NHS Dentistry**

The formation of NHS England on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 saw the commissioning responsibility of NHS dentistry pass from clusters of Primary Care Trusts to NHS England. NHS England is split into four Regions, with London, as one of the four Regions, being further split into three Area Teams. North Central London is now within the North East London Area Team. The commissioning of primary, community and acute dentistry within the London Region is managed by one team covering the three Area Teams to increase consistency through the implementation of single operating procedures and to develop a consistent service offer for patients.

NHS England has unique direct commissioning responsibility for whole dental pathway. In London this covers:

- Primary care – 1400+ primary care (high street dentistry and orthodontic) contracts with an ongoing focus on increasing access and improving quality
- Secondary care – 17 hospital provider contracts
- Special Care – 9 providers delivering special care services across the 32 boroughs to vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups
- Urgent Out of Hours Care – new interface with 111
- Specialist oral surgery, endodontic, periodontic and sedation services – identification of good practice to shape consistent offer for patients
- Interface relationships with Health in the Justice System commissioners for Prison Dentistry, and Public Health commissioners in Local Authorities for Oral Health Promotion

### **Dental Provision in North Central London**

In North Central London, NHS England's commissioning responsibility can be broken down as follows:

- Primary care - There are 221 primary care dental contracts, 17 of which provide orthodontic services– this accounts for almost £60m of spend, delivering over 1,990,177 units of dental activity (UDAs) and 126,096 units of orthodontic activity.

According to June 2013 data:

- 41.58% of the Barnet population,
- 54.73% of the Camden population,
- 50.88% of the Enfield population,
- 62.16% of the Haringey population,
- 49.05% of the Islington population.

have accessed NHS Dentistry in the past 2 years. This is in comparison to a London average of 51%.

In 2012/13, 220,462 children in North Central London under the age of 18 were treated by an NHS General Dental Practitioner in a high street setting, broken down at Borough level was:

- 60,223 children in Barnet
  - 57,030 children in Enfield
  - 28,874 children in Camden
  - 22,546 children in Islington
  - 51,789 children in Haringey
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- Secondary care – North Central London patients are predominately referred to UCLH (University College London Hospital) and Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital for hospital dentistry including oral surgery, paediatric dentistry, and other specialist services. Referrals are also made to Guys & St Thomas Hospital and Kings Hospital
  
  - Special Care dental services – Whittington Health (for Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington) and Central London Community Health Care Trust (Barnet) provide NHS dental care for people who are unable to attend a regular dentist. The service specialises in treating adults and children with multiple dental problems, people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities or severe mental health problems, people with impaired mobility, people with drug or alcohol problems and those who are nervous about dental treatment. All clinics are accessible to wheelchair users and people with disabilities. They also have special equipment to allow the provision of care for people who cannot transfer from their wheelchair. Where necessary, dental care is provided on a domiciliary basis. These services operate from 16 sites across North Central London.
  
  - Urgent Out of Hours Dental Care – Patients in North Central London (NCL) currently access urgent out of hours advice and treatment via NHS 111, who direct patients to three sites across NCL (which currently does not provide adequate out of hours coverage) using a triage algorithm. There is also a walk-in dental service provided in Camden which is open 08:00 to 20:00hrs (closed at 18:00hrs on Wednesdays) during the weekday only. Urgent out of hours dental care provision is being reconfigured in North Central and East London in order implement a more co-ordinated care pathway for emergency dental services which interface appropriately with the NHS 111 telephone line, and accommodates access into more locally convenient locations. Changes will come into place from April 2014.
  
  - Specialist and intermediate services – NCL patients requiring minor oral surgery may be referred to community based providers in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington rather than attending hospital services. Sedation services are provided at a large dental surgery in Haringey. A contract for intermediate endodontic services has been commissioned in Haringey to help to increase capacity and reduce referrals into secondary care.

## **London's role in delivering national priorities**

London Dental Commissioners in NHS England are contributing to the delivery of four key national priorities: Delivering Better Oral Health, Dental Contract Reform, Shaping Care Pathways and Developing a Local Dental Network. These priorities will shape local implementation in order to better meet local needs.

### **Delivering Better Oral Health**

NHS England and Public Health England will need to work in close partnership with the London Borough of Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Islington and Camden to deliver improvements in oral health through oral health promotion.

#### *Oral Health Survey of 5 year Olds*

The 2012 national survey of the oral health of five year olds in North Central London shows that:

- 25% of five year olds in Barnet
- 36.3% of five year olds in Camden
- 43.9% of five year olds on Enfield
- 38% of five year olds in Haringey
- 30.4% of five year olds in Islington
- 31.2% of five year olds in London

have at least one decayed, missing or filled tooth. Findings from the dental health survey suggest that five year olds are receiving dental care appropriately but are also experiencing early dental disease. Some children such as those with physical or learning disability experience an increased risk of dental decay and disease. In addition to high street provision, the Special Care dental services provided by Whittington Health include oral health promotion and dental screening at special schools, nurseries and pre-schools in Camden, Islington, Enfield & Haringey

### **Dental Contract Reform**

The Coalition Agreement set out the intention to introduce a new dental contract based on registration, capitation and quality. Unlike the introduction of the 2006 dental contracts, the Government agreed that the new contract would be piloted. Wave 1 was launched in Summer 2011 with 70 pilots signed up and a further 20 pilots joining Wave 2 in April this year. 17 London practices are piloting different versions of the pilot models, one of these being in Redbridge, and London Dental Commissioners are working alongside Department of Health colleagues to shape the associated contracting framework.

## **Shaping care pathways**

A Pan-London Orthodontic Programme Board has reviewed the commissioning options for future contracting arrangements for orthodontic provision in primary care. The recommendations of this work will contribute to national care pathway development across primary and secondary care.

London Dental Commissioners participated in the development of the national care pathway for oral surgery. Implementation across London is currently underway.

All intermediate services in London are in the process of being reviewed in order to increase service provision in a primary care setting and improve accessibility.

## **Development of a Local Dental Network**

Underpinning London's transformation agenda is the development of a multi-disciplinary dental network to set priorities and provide clinical leadership. This Dental Network in London will link into national networks to shape the dental commissioning agenda going forward.

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