

# Title of report: Dental services in Herefordshire

**Meeting: Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

**Meeting date: Monday 27 January 2025**

**Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose**

To provide information to the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to enable them to carry out their agreed work to “examine Hereford’s oral health outcomes and the work being undertaken to improve the oral health of the local population.”

## **Recommendation(s)**

That:

- a) Members of the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee read the attached report and appendices; and
- b) Prepare any questions that they may have for the officers attending the meeting.

## **Alternative options**

1. The committee have requested to scrutinise dental services in Herefordshire at the meeting of the committee and have requested the information contained in this report to enable them to carry out their work. No alternative options are therefore presented.

## **Key considerations**

2. The Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee identified dental services in Herefordshire as a priority for the committee’s work programme. It seeks to:

- a) To identify the responsibilities of the local authority in respect of oral health, and the responsibilities of NHS England, in respect of dentistry.
- b) To examine Hereford's oral health outcomes and the work being undertaken to improve the oral health of the local population.
- c) To investigate the pressures and challenges faced by dental care services and the work being undertaken to improve access to dental care.
- d) To examine the local population's views and experiences of accessing and using NHS dental services
- e) To identify potential recommendations to improve the oral health of Herefordshire's population and access to dental care.

### **Community impact**

3. Set out any considerations relating to community impact including contribution made to corporate plan / health and wellbeing strategy or other local or national strategies or policies.

### **Environmental Impact**

4. Whilst this is a decision on back-office functions and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the council's environmental policies.

### **Equality duty**

5. Due to the potential impact of this project/decision/activity being low, a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. However the following equality considerations should be taken into account when making a decision about this activity/project:
  - a. The particular needs of children and young people, as outlined from paragraph 16 of appendix 1 of this report.
  - b. The need for dental services in areas of relative deprivation, detailed from paragraph 20 of appendix 1 of this report.

### **Resource implications**

9. As this report is for information only, there are no resource implications in considering its contents. Any recommendations made by the committee, if agreed by the executive, will have resource implications that will need to be considered by the decision-making body.

### **Legal implications**

10. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
11. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

## Risk management

12. There are no particular risks in considering the contents of this report. There may be a risk to the dental health of people in Hereford if the NHS and Herefordshire Council fails to ensure that there is sufficient dental services capacity, in the right locations, in Herefordshire. Although Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has no decision-making powers, its work contributes to minimising and mitigating the risk outlined above.

## Consultees

13. No consultation took place in preparing this report.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 - Oral Health in Herefordshire

## Background papers

[Faster, simpler and fairer: our plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry - GOV.UK](#)

## Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

**Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published**

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