

## The Impact of COVID-19 on Access to Dental Services

Request	Responder	Response
<p>The 2018 West Sussex Oral Health Needs Assessment in Children and Young People report be circulated to the Committee</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Public Health &amp; Wellbeing</p>	<p>The West Sussex Oral Health Needs Assessment in Children and Young People was published in 2018 and can be viewed on the West Sussex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website here, including an Executive Summary: <a href="https://jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/subject-specific-needs-assessments/oral-health/">https://jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/subject-specific-needs-assessments/oral-health/</a></p> <p>In addition, the 'Special Care and Paediatric Dentistry South East Needs Assessment Summary Report' (2019), published by NHS England and NHS Improvement, which includes West Sussex is available here: <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/south-east/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/2020/10/Needs-assessment-special-care-summary-report-v4-final-.pdf">https://www.england.nhs.uk/south-east/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/2020/10/Needs-assessment-special-care-summary-report-v4-final-.pdf</a></p>
<p>The West Sussex Oral Health Needs Assessment in Children and Young People report be refreshed</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Public Health &amp; Wellbeing</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing is discussing the timelines for a refreshed needs assessment with the Director of Public Health and will provide a further update to the Committee when available.</p>
<p>The Cabinet Member for Public Health &amp; Wellbeing or the Health and Wellbeing Board, to assess how he/it can be involved in Dental Contract Reform</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Public Health &amp; Wellbeing</p>	<p>NHS Dentistry in West Sussex, is the commissioning responsibility of NHS England (NHSE) South East, and is not within the County Council's remit. Engaging in Dental Contract Reform does not sit within the functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board or the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing's portfolio, however the Cabinet</p>

		Member is happy to engage on this matter to seek influence, where possible.
The Cabinet Member for Public Health & Wellbeing/NHS to provide information to the Committee on the state of dental health in West Sussex and what is being done to address this through prevention work	Cabinet Member for Public Health & Wellbeing	See below at *
The Chairman writes to the relevant Secretary of State to highlight the need to address the national shortage of dentists and what work can be undertaken in terms of incentives to encourage people to become dentists	Chairman, Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	Letter sent on 24/2/22.
NHS England to provide the Committee with a plan to address the backlog of dental appointments	Senior Commissioning Manager (Dental) NHS England & NHS Improvement - South East	The requirements for minimum levels of activity have been set nationally. The minimum levels of activity that all practices have been required to deliver since they were able to reopen for face-to-face care in June 2020, was initially a minimum of 20% of historic levels of activity between July to December 2020, increasing to 45% between January to March 2021, increasing to a minimum threshold of 60% of contracted activity between April to September 2021, 65% between October to December 2021 and 85% since January 2022. It is expected that contractual requirements will increase to 100% from 1 April 2022, however this is not yet confirmed and even when 100% of contracted activity returns this will not address the backlog which developed during the earlier periods where face to face activity was not possible or reduced.

		<p>In addition to the nationally set minimum levels of activity that has been prioritised for those with the greatest clinical need, I explained the Southeast funding offer to all practices to provide additional sessions outside of their contracted hours. On 25 January 2022 it was announced that a national time-limited injection of £50m was being made to increase access to urgent dental care; this funding is to be utilised by 31 March 2022 with any underspend to be returned to the Treasury. This national scheme is very similar to the Southeast scheme described at HASC as extra sessions are to be provided by practices outside of their contracted hours, but with a higher sessional payment than we offered to reflect that this required rapid mobilisation of the workforce for a short duration until 31 March 2022. The higher sessional payment and being for a short duration has resulted in more expressions of interest and consequently we currently have five practices in West Sussex able to provide sessions outside of their contracted hours and continue to work with practices until 31 March 2022 to agree more sessions. Details of practices that have accepted this additional funding are available to patients from the Sussex Dental Helpline on 0300 123 1663 and from 111.</p>
--	--	---

### **\* Overview**

As outlined in the West Sussex Oral Health Needs Assessment in Children and Young People (2018), "Oral health is an important contributor to overall health. It is defined by the Department of Health (DH) as the "standard of the oral and related tissues, which enables an individual to eat, speak and socialise without active disease, discomfort or embarrassment." These basic daily functions impact on general health and wellbeing and can have significant implications on the development of children."

### **Data**

#### **Dental health for children**

The most recent data for West Sussex on dental health for children, is included in the West Sussex Oral Health Needs Assessment in Children and Young People (2018) in Section 4 Prevalence of Oral Health Issues. This includes estimates of the standard of oral health in children from the national dental surveys conducted by Public Health England (PHE), such as the biennial oral health survey of 5-year-olds.

Reference: <https://jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/subject-specific-needs-assessments/oral-health/> [Accessed 24.02.22]

#### **Hospital admissions for dental caries 0-5 years**

Recent data on hospital admissions for dental caries in 0-5 years is available from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) as follows:

- In 2017/18-2019/20, West Sussex had a crude rate of 90.8 per 100,000 population aged 0-5 years for hospital admissions for dental caries. This is lower than the England crude rate for the same period (286.2 per 100,000 population aged 0-5 years) and not significantly different from the West Sussex crude rate in the previous two years.

It is important to highlight, however, that although the majority of this data relates to before the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be a small effect on these figures due to the effect the pandemic had on admissions to hospital during February and March 2020. Additionally, tooth extraction data as recorded in HES may underestimate the true number of extractions, as those conducted at community dental services may not be included.

*Reference:*

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/dental#page/4/gid/1938133228/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/402/are/E10000032/iid/93479/age/247/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0> [Accessed 24.02.22]

### **Access to NHS Dental Services**

Estimates of access to NHS dental services is available via the annual GP Patient Survey. As of the 2018/19 survey, 93.6% of West Sussex survey respondents indicated that they were able to successfully obtain a dental appointment in the last two years. This proportion is comparable to England (94.2%) and is similar to the estimates of the previous three years.

*Reference:*

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/dental#page/4/gid/1938133251/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/402/are/E10000032/iid/92785/age/1/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0> [Accessed 24/02/22]

### **Prevention**

The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) ensures positive oral health messages are promoted by Health Visitors and Schools Nurses, and the Council's Early Help Service also encourage good oral health as part of a health assessment they complete with families they are working with.

The West Sussex Sugar Smart Dental Toolkit has been developed for use in dental practices across West Sussex, and includes a range of resources for the dental team, promotional material for patients, and useful resources for social media. Dental practices can order these resources from the Health Promotion Resource Service, part of the Public Health Directorate. Further information is available on the West Sussex Wellbeing website:

<https://www.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/topics/information-for-professionals/resources-to-support-your-work>

## Financial Assessments Improvement Programme

<b>Request</b>	<b>Responder</b>	<b>Response</b>
Mandatory disability awareness training for all financial assessment staff by the end of the first quarter of 2022/23 that provides learning to improvement practice and communication	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.
The Council Quality Assurance process is extended to include the end of the customer journey for Adult Social Care, including case audits of staff twice yearly	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.
Community organisations that support people who may or receive adult social care are given an appropriate level of information/ training so they can support people going forward	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.
Communication and written resources are co-produced with Healthwatch and relevant community partners and people who may need adult social care in the future by the end of this financial year	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.
A survey be co-produced with customer input to go out to people affected by the change in charging policy to get their opinions and to see if there are any outstanding issues	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.
A progress report to be brought to the Committee in September on the Financial Assessments Improvement Plan	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Added to Work Programme.
Data to be provided to members on how many people are affected by the review of financial assessments	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.
Future work on the Adults' Social Care Strategy ensures effective engagement takes places with residents	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.

Case studies be provided to residents to better understand the new process	Cabinet Member for Adults' Services	Update will be provided as part of the report being presented to the Committee in September 2022.
--	-------------------------------------	---