

## Dental Services in North Yorkshire



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### Dental Services in North Yorkshire

#### 1 Background:

- 1.1 The current primary care NHS dental contracts, the General Dental Service Contract and Personal Dental Service Agreement, were introduced in 2006. The dental contracting currency is Units of Dental Activity (UDA) and the orthodontic contracting currency is Units of Orthodontic Activity (UOAs). A general dental service provider is contracted for an annual agreed number of units of dental activity for a related contract value. An orthodontic provider is contracted for an annual agreed number of units of orthodontic activity for a related contract value.
- 1.2 NHS England currently has a statutory duty to secure all NHS dental services. This includes the general dental practices on the high street, Orthodontic practices, Community Dental Services and those services provided in secondary care like oral surgery.
- 1.3 As the oral health of the population has improved more people are keeping their teeth into old age. At the same time major technical advances are being made enabling provision of more complex dental care. Both these factors have implications for dental services. It is recognised that dental services are demand led, but that they should be increasingly targeted towards those whose oral health is poor or who are at high risk of developing disease.
- 1.4 Dental practices provide services according to four different bands of care with the provider awarded a number of UDAs for each band:
- Band 1: includes an examination, diagnosis and advice. If necessary, it also includes x-rays, a scale and polish, application of fluoride varnish or fissure sealants and planning for further treatment (1 UDA).
  - Band 1 urgent: includes urgent care a patient may need, such as pulp extirpation, extraction, dressing (1.2 UDAs).
  - Band 2: includes all treatment covered by Band 1, plus additional treatment, such as fillings, root canal treatment, extractions and gum (periodontal) treatment (3 UDAs).
  - Band 3: includes all treatment covered by Bands 1 and 2, plus more complex procedures, such as crowns, dentures and bridges (12 UDAs).
- 1.5 Fee paying adults contribute towards the cost of NHS dental treatment with the contribution determined by the band (the patient contribution to Band 1 and Band 1 urgent is the same).

#### 2 Primary care dental services (General Dental Practices)

- 2.1 In North Yorkshire there are 104 NHS dental contracts split between general dental services, orthodontics or general dental services that also have an orthodontic service.

	Overall NY Nos	Cost		UDAs / UOAs	
		2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
General dental services	82	£30,546,801.68	£30,888,203.94	UDAs 1,091,564	UDAs 1,088,316
Combined general dental	14	£3,690,290.56	£3,814,656.54	UDAs 124,754	UDAs 127,747

service and an orthodontic service				UOAs - 3698	UOAs - 3427
Orthodontic services only	8	£2,920,037.88	£2,928,661.97	UOAs 52,974	UOAs 52,074

The average price per UDA in North Yorkshire is £28.38 compared to the Yorkshire and Humber average of £28.30.

- 2.2 The data from September 2017 show there were 228,865 adult patients seen in the past 24 months in North Yorkshire and 66, 251 child patients seen in the past 12 months. Consequently, a total of 295, 116 patients received access to NHS dental care (Source: NHS Digital, 2018).
- 2.3 Most primary care dental services are provided in general dental practice however the community dental services have an important role in the provision of primary dental care for vulnerable groups who may need treatment in a setting to accommodate their needs. The community dental services also have important roles in relation to delivering dental public health programmes and some specialist services such as paediatric dentistry and special care dentistry. The budget for this service in North Yorkshire (17/18) was £3,131,593
- 2.3 Other primary based specialist services in North Yorkshire consist of orthodontic and oral surgery services. There are 8 specific orthodontic providers in North Yorkshire.
- 2.4 Unplanned dental care aims to provide primary care dental access to people who require urgent dental care in or out of hours due to pain, infection, swelling, bleeding and dental trauma.

### 3 Access and Capacity

There is widespread availability of NHS dental care in North Yorkshire with units of dental activity (UDAs) commissioned across all the district authorities. The average number of UDAs commissioned per person in North Yorkshire is similar to the neighbouring local authority of York (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1 UDAs claimed per resident adult patient by local authority 2013/14

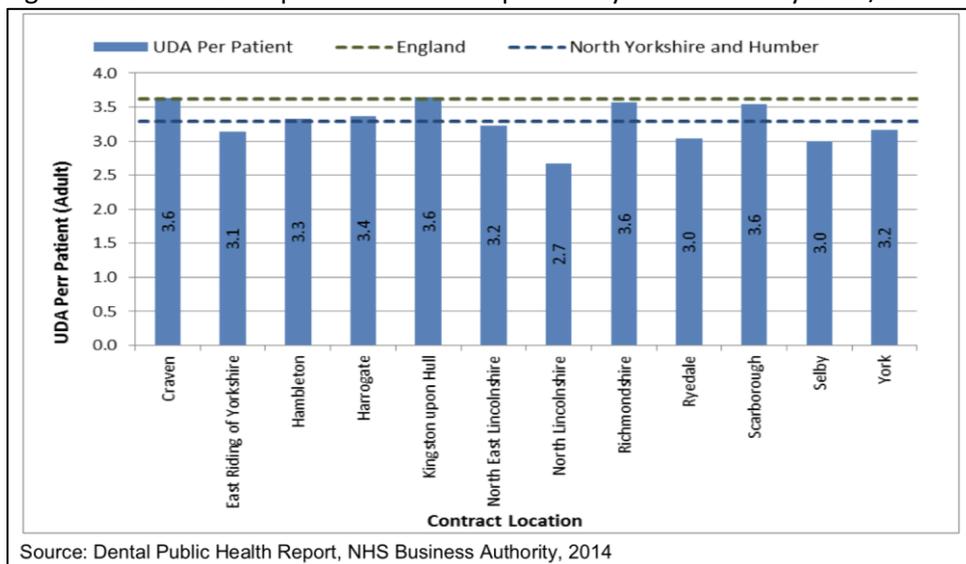
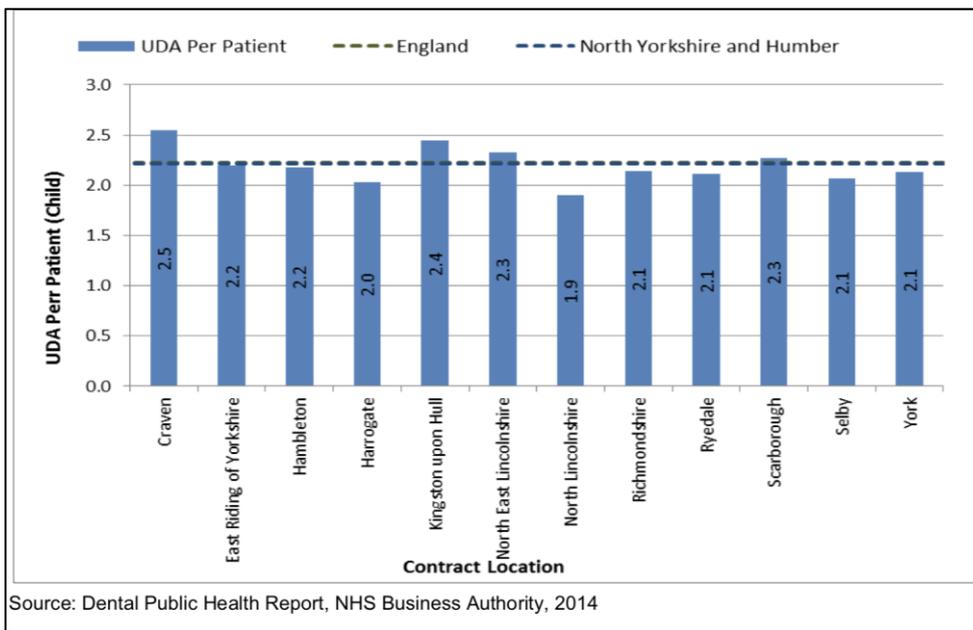


Figure 2 UDAs claimed per resident child patient by local authority 2013/14



Despite good overall access to dental services, with increasing deprivation access rates fall in both adults and children. Those wards shaded red had the lowest dental attendance and those shaded blue had the highest dental attendance over a 24-month period (Figures 3 and 4).

Figure 3 Access rate for resident adult by ward, 24 months to March 2014

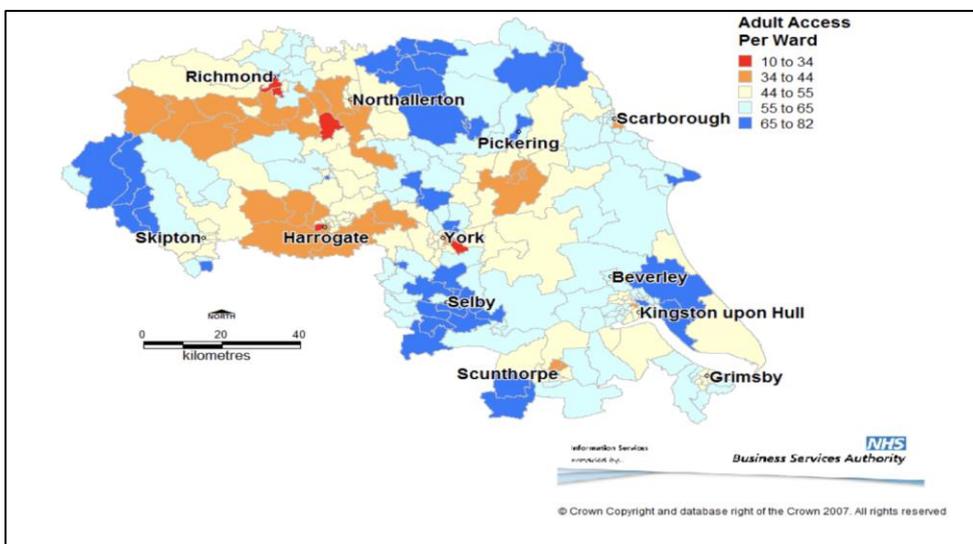
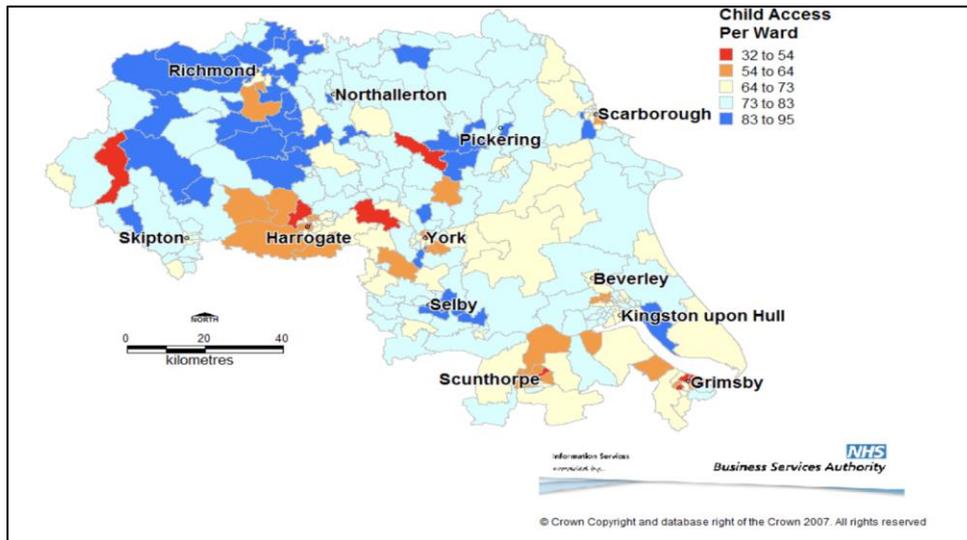


Figure 4 Access rate for resident child by ward, 24 months to March 2014



### General dental practices accepting new patients

Patients are no longer officially 'registered' with a dental practice, but patients tend to be associated with particular dental practices for their routine dental care.

General dental practices provide information to the NHS Choices website regarding whether they are able to take on new patients and the facilities they offer including access for disabled patients. It is the responsibility of the practice to keep this information up to date, but many practices do not update the information.

## 4 Secondary Care Dental Services

4.1 In North Yorkshire, there are 4 acute trusts, Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The overall contract costs 17/18 - £111,308,255 and 18/19 - £11,234,368.80

4.2 The acute trusts undertake a variety of treatments including orthodontics, oral medicine and paediatric dentistry.

## 5 Epidemiology

5.1 Tooth decay is the main oral disease affecting children. It has significant impacts on the daily lives of children and their families including pain, sleepless nights and time missed from school and work. The main risk factors for tooth decay are diets high in sugars and lack of exposure to fluoride therefore tooth decay is largely preventable.

A commonly used indicator of tooth decay and treatment experience, the dmft index, is obtained by calculating the average number of decayed (d), missing due to decay (m) and filled due to decay (f) teeth (t) in a population. In five-year-old children, this score will be for the first (primary) teeth and is recorded as dmft. In 12-year-old children it reports the adult teeth in upper case (DMFT). The average (mean) dmft/DMFT is a measure of the severity of tooth decay experience.

- 5.2 The 2013 national survey examined three-year-old children, attending state and private funded nurseries and nursery classes attached to schools and play groups. Yorkshire and The Humber was amongst the worst four regions in England for oral health for this age group.
- 5.3 In 2016/17 the prevalence of tooth decay in 5-year-olds in Yorkshire and The Humber (30.4%) was higher than the England average (23.3%). Of the five-year-olds in North Yorkshire 21.8% experienced tooth decay. However, there were variations by unitary authority with 29.4% of five-year-olds in Scarborough experiencing tooth decay.

## **6 Developments**

NHS England Yorkshire and Humber has restructured the dental team to merge the pathway of primary and secondary dental care in to one so the team works across the whole of Yorkshire and Humber.

This has enabled the development of a structured work plan for the whole of Yorkshire and Humber. The priority areas are:

- Improving access to primary care dental service
- Urgent Care services
- Community Dental Services development
- Orthodontics re-procurement

### **Improving access to primary care dental services**

The Yorkshire and Humber Dental team has developed a strategy to support improving access to primary dental care. This was started with a review of the current provision. The area was divided in to smaller units and a ranking of those units was developed using certain criteria –

- Units of Dental Activity per head of population
- The number of patients resident in an area that are accessing NHS dental services
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation

The average UDAs per head of population for Yorkshire and Humber is 1.72 – the strategy is to work towards raising all areas to this level.

Funding has been identified to support the start of this work. The first 20 areas with the highest ranking score have been selected for some additional funding to the limit of the £5 million budget identified. There are no areas in North Yorkshire that have been immediately identified as requiring additional activity however as work progresses and budgets allow then it is anticipated that this work may extend to other areas

### **Urgent Care services**

There are currently 5 providers who offer urgent care slots in North Yorkshire – Scarborough, Ripon, Harrogate, Skipton and York. All providers offer urgent care dental services over weekends and bank holidays.

### **Community Dental Services**

There is one service provider in North Yorkshire and the service is based in several locations across North Yorkshire. The services across Yorkshire and Humber have been reviewed and a service specification to commission a standardised service across the whole area has been developed. Work is being done to identify how this can now be implemented.

### **Orthodontic contracts**

Orthodontic services are commissioned under a Personal Dental Services Agreement with Units of Orthodontic Activity (UOAs) – this is a time limited agreement. The current agreements in all Yorkshire and Humber are due to end in March 2019 and so work is being done to re-procure these services. A 2017/18 Orthodontic Needs Assessment has been completed by Public Health England and this has identified that for North Yorkshire there are areas which may be over-commissioned (Harrogate, Scarborough and Ryedale, Selby and York) and some which may be under-commissioned (Craven, Hambleton and Richmondshire and Airedale). However the natural flows of population from neighbouring areas is being taken into account and the fact that there are some areas where UOAs are provided in general dental contracts.

### **Challenges for provision**

In 2018, NHS England YH was made aware of 2 providers in Catterick & Richmond and Keighley who decided to hand back their NHS contracts for a variety of reasons. As a result of this, NHS England YH has put interim solutions in place to ensure local patients can continue to access NHS dentistry. These interim solutions are now in place until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 whilst NHSE YH seeks further clarification on whether procurement for these services is required.

Another challenge for service providers and commissioners is the difficulties in attracting dentists and staff to work in North Yorkshire – this is mainly in the coastal area and is not confined just to North Yorkshire. Work is being started between the national NHS England dental team with Health Education England and the dental profession to see how this can be addressed. Locally this has also been raised with the Dental Deanery to see how training places can be supported in this area to try to encourage dentists to undertake their Foundation Training – which is done after they have qualified – with practices in North Yorkshire and then what measures need to be taken to encourage dentists to stay after they have completed this year.

### **Confirmation of questions raised**

- How many dental practices offer NHS places in the county?  
In North Yorkshire there are 104 NHS dental contracts split between general dental services, orthodontics or general dental services that also have an orthodontic service
- How many people receive NHS dental treatment each year?  
The data from September 2017 show there were 228,865 adult patients seen in the past 24 months in North Yorkshire and 66, 251 child patients seen in the past 12 months. Consequently, a total of 295, 116 patients received access to NHS dental care (Source: NHS Digital, 2018).
- Whether there is any spare capacity to take on additional NHS clients in the county?  
The Yorkshire and Humber Dental team has developed a strategy to support improving access to primary dental care. This was started with a review of the current provision. The YH locality was divided in to smaller units and a ranking of those units was developed using a certain criteria. There are no areas in North Yorkshire that have been immediately identified as requiring additional activity however as work progresses and budgets allow then it is anticipated that this work may extend to other areas.
- Are there any obvious gaps in provision?

The Yorkshire and Humber Dental team continue to work closely with our dental providers and dental networks in Yorkshire and Humber to ensure we have equitable access to dental services across all areas.

As regards to access for children, the SMILE4LIFE programme proposed by the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, has collected together several initiatives to support increasing access for children to dental services particularly supporting preventative interventions.

There is already an initiative underway in parts of North Yorkshire called In Practice Preventive (IPP). This initiative is being formally evaluated by Bangor University.

A Starting Well Core offer is also being proposed that can be used by commissioners to take this forward for children under 2 years of age in areas of high deprivation. The purpose of this scheme is to encourage practices to accept more children in to their service and to spend time with them encouraging tooth brushing, improving diets and reducing sugar intake.