

Dover District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
NHS Dentistry Provision

Councillor C A Vinson

- Q1. What proportion of the 1) adult, and 2) child population of the district is registered with a dentist as an NHS patient?
- Q2. How has the number of dentists (and dental surgeries) in the district changed over the past 5 or more years?
- Q3. What proportion of the dental surgeries in the district are currently accepting new NHS patients?
- Q4. Are there any areas of the district particularly well served, or under served by NHS dentistry?
- Q5. How does oral/dental health in the Dover district compare to the rest of Kent, and the rest of the country?
- Q6. How will the government's NHS dentistry recovery plan affect residents, and be delivered in the Dover district?
- Q6. Are any 'dental vans' planned to be introduced in the Dover district?

Councillor M J Nee

- Q7. How many NHS patients have been removed from dentistry lists since 2020 and how many new registrations have there been since then?
- Q8. How many people present at hospitals with dental emergencies? Of these, what % are children?

Councillor H M Williams

- Q9. How do you measure the number of NHS dentists in an area, given that some dentists have all NHS patients, some have some NHS plus some private, and some have only private patients?
- Q10. Given the size of the population in Dover District (in 2022, a bit over 117,000). How many NHS dentists should there be? So, what is the shortfall?

- Q11. How does the number of NHS dentists in Dover District compare with the UK average, and other districts in the South-East?
- Q12. How does the average no of patients per NHS dentist in Dover District, compare to other England districts?
- Q13. Can you tell us about local children's dental services? (that is preschool, primary aged and secondary aged).
- What preventative services do you run for children? Is there a school dental service?
 - If a child is found to need the attention of a dentist what happens if they don't have an NHS dentist?
 - How many NHS dentists are regularly treating and checking children's teeth locally?
 - What %age of children in Dover District get seen regularly by a dentist?
- Q14. Do you have figures on children seen by local hospitals for emergency dental treatment? I believe it is the highest reason for children attending A&E, is this correct?
- Q15. My concern as a DDC councillor, is the long-term consequences of the number of children with poor teeth, and what this is storing up for the future of their dental health, and also the impact on hospitals. Please will you comment on this.
- Q16. Why are so many dentists leaving the NHS to do private work?... I watched Countryfile on BBC1 TV on Sunday 16 March. They quoted the British Dental Association, that there is a crisis in dental care and 1 in 4 people have unmet dental care needs.
- Q17. In 2005/6 a new Dental Contract was introduced with Units of Dental Activity (Bands 1, 2 and 3). Many dentists did not renew their NHS contract which I believe has led us to the current position of poor dental health in the UK. Are there any plans to change the contract to a fee per procedure? or other changes e.g. to what it was before 2005?
- Q18. On 1st April 2024 the costs to patients went up 8.5%, Band One being £26.80.(In April 2014 that figure was £18.50, so a 45% increase) If everything on that band was completed it would take an hour to complete and, therefore, dentists do not have the time. Some tasks will be put off requiring the patient to attend again, therefore, delaying treatment and an additional £26.80. Is the Dental Service monitoring all NHS dentists to ensure this does not happen?
- Q19. From April 2024 Band 2, costs £73.50, and includes Band One treatment plus up to three fillings, root canals, extractions. (in April 2014 this was £50.50, a 45% increase). There is no incentive to preserve teeth. It is less time consuming for the dentist to do an extraction, thus affecting patients' long term dental health. Is the Dental Service monitoring all NHS dentists to ensure this does not happen?

Q20. For a dental emergency, people are referred to a hospital A&E by 111. How many dentists are employed at our local hospitals? Is there an out-of-hours emergency service? Can you explain please.

Q21. In Feb this year a dental recovery plan was announced by the government. How do you see this affecting Dover District residents? What can you do about increasing the number of local dentists? Can we request a mobile service?