

To:

South West

HOSCs

Healthwatch Leads

CCG and STP/ICS Chief Executives

Local Dental Committee Chairs

NHS England and NHS Improvement
South West
South Plaza 3rd Floor
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NX

26 February 2021

Dear Colleagues,

South West Oral Health Needs Assessment and Dental Reform programme

I am writing to share an update and the enclosed summary of a new Oral Health Needs Assessment (OHNA) for the region as a first milestone in our South West Dental Reform programme.

As the commissioner responsible for planning and contracting for NHS dental services in the region, we arranged for an up to date OHNA to be undertaken by an independent provider, Ottaway Strategic Management. This significant piece of work will now inform the development of a South West Dental Reform strategy.

The OHNA provides an important set of suggestions and recommendations, which we will consider as part of the South West Dental Reform Programme. The assessment provides evidence to enable a strategy to be developed to commission NHS dental services within the financial envelope for the region that are best tailored to meet the needs of patients who live in the south west. The full OHNA and appendices is held on the NHS England and NHS Improvement South West website www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/dental

To complete the OHNA, Ottaway undertook four different forms of engagement with stakeholders, practitioners, patients and the public, including; holding 56 stakeholder interviews; 221 stakeholder and oral health practitioner surveys were completed; 802 patient and public surveys were completed, and focus groups held. The information gathered through this engagement was analysed together with data gathered from a variety of sources as explained in the enclosed report.

The South West Dental Reform Programme was set up in 2020 to bring together the NHS England and NHS Improvement Dental Commissioning Team with key stakeholders with responsibility for oral health in the region (including; Public Health England, Health Education England, Local Dental Committee, Local Dental Network and sustainability and transformation partnership (STP) representatives). The purpose of the programme is to inform our strategy for the future of NHS dental services that will contribute to the overall improvement of oral health for people living in the south west.

Dental reform is a regional priority for NHS England and NHS Improvement South West. We are supporting dental practices to resume services following the pandemic response and

building on this so that services are better than before. As the programme develops, we will keep you updated - thank you for your ongoing support.

Thank you to those stakeholders who have contributed to the Oral Health Needs Assessment, your support is appreciated. We have also received several HealthWatch reports on Dental Services in the region and this data is being used by the South West Dental Reform programme team together with the feedback gathered on NHS dental services within a recent region-wide public survey we ran in 2020 from more than 6,000 participants. As a stakeholder, should you wish to share additional feedback at this stage to support the development of the South West Dental Reform programme, please send any comments to england.engagement-sw@nhs.net before Monday 8 March.

As the South West Dental Reform programme progresses, further detail on stakeholder engagement opportunities, to inform the development of a strategy for the future of dental services will be shared across the region. We would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Biggs'.

Ian Biggs
Director Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning
South West

On behalf of the South West Dental Reform Programme