Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting:	11 March 2026
Title of Report:	**Dental Task Force Update**
Lead Member:	Councillor Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care)
Lead Strategic Director:	Professor Steve Maddern (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Emily Crowley (Public Health Specialist)
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report
This report provides an update on the progress of the Dental Task Force for the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel notes the update on the progress of the Dental Task Force and the renewed priorities. These include two continuing priorities:

1. Providing additional funding to Plymouth City Council to strengthen the city's oral health improvement (prevention) offer.
2. Using a proportion of Plymouth's annual NHS dental underspend to commission new services for high priority groups and those without access to an NHS dentist.

An additional two new priorities have been agreed by the Dental Task Force:

3. Children who haven't seen a dentist
4. Developing the oral health workforce

Alternative options considered and rejected
None – briefing for information only

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Dental Task Force (DTF) directly supports the Council's corporate priority to work with the NHS to improve access to healthcare and dentistry. It also aligns with key elements of the Plymouth Plan 'A Healthy City', specifically:

- **HEA1:** Reducing health inequalities
- **HEA2:** Improving outcomes for children and families
- **HEA3:** Supporting adults with health and social care needs
- **HEA9:** Ensuring accessible, high quality health services

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
None – information only

Financial Risks

None – information only

Legal Implications

None - information only

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:
None – information only

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:
** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*
None – information only.

Appendices
**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
A	Dental Task Force Update	X						
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)	NA						
C	Climate Impact Assessment (if applicable)	NA						

Background papers:
**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
See appendices							

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member Professor Steve Maddern											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 24/02/2026											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Mary Aspinall – approved by email Date approved: 02/03/2026											