

	<p><b>Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p><b>6 July 2015</b></p>
<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Member’s Item – Cllr Arjun Mitra – Dentistry in Barnet</b></p>
<p><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
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### Summary

The report informs the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a Member’s Item and requests instructions from the Committee.

### Recommendations

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s instructions in relation to this Member’s item are requested.

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Councillor Arjun Mitra has requested that a Member's Item be considered on the following matter:

*"Member's Item from Cllr Mitra for HOSC: Dentistry in Barnet*

*The following is an extract from Healthwatch Barnet:*

*"In a mystery shopping survey of 50 dental practices, Healthwatch Barnet found that over half of practices (53%) were not accepting new NHS adult patients and just under half (47%) were not accepting new children as patients. This contrasts sharply with the fact that over 90% of the practices were accepting both adult and children as new private patients.*

*Healthwatch Barnet spokesperson Mike Rich said: "The problem is not with capacity but with the fact that in spite of an increasingly growing population, there has not been any increase in funding for NHS Dental Services in the Borough for 10 years". Mike added "The Local Dental Committee have told us that many of their members in the Borough would like to be able to offer more NHS appointments but are unable to do so."*

*Access to dental appointments was not the only problem. Many practices did not have information on costs of treatment on display and not all surgeries agreed a treatment plan before treatment was offered.*

*But it is not all doom and gloom, with 82% of people recently reporting having had a good experience of local NHS dental services in Barnet according to a NHS England patient survey.*

*Healthwatch Barnet concluded that there is clearly a shortfall in the amount of NHS dentistry being funded in Barnet and this means that what is available is patchy both geographically and according to the time of year an appointment is sought.*

*Healthwatch Barnet has made a number of recommendations:*

*\* Urgent consideration needs to be given to the amount of funding available for NHS Dentistry in Barnet;*

*\* Clear information about costs should be readily available to all patients when they attend a dental appointment;*

*\* All patients should receive a clear written treatment plan, including costs, before any treatment is started."*

*I request a report to come to HOSC responding to the issues raised in this article.*

*<http://www.healthwatchbarnet.co.uk/news/check-finds-holes-barnet-dentistry-services>"*

## 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

3.1 Not applicable.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

#### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

#### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 The Council's (Constitution Meeting Procedure Rules, Section 6) illustrates that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee may have one item only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

#### **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

#### **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 Member's Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications. Member's Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications. In considering the issue itself and deciding whether to provide any instructions members are required by s149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to:

6. The Council is required to comply with its public sector equality duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010 which is to give due regard to the matters set out in s149:

the need to—

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are—

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation

## 6.1 **Consultation and Engagement**

6.1.1 None in the context of this report.

## 7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Email to Governance Team Leader, dated 24 June 2015.