



**Report to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Healthwatch Barnet Dental Report**

28/09/2015

Since the publication of the Healthwatch Barnet Dental Report we have decided to action the following activity:

- Refresh the current report in February 2016 to provide an update. For this refresh we will use the same methodology but also carry out some mapping of access to NHS and private dentistry services;
- We have commissioned Homestart Barnet to carry out some work looking at access to dentistry for pre-school children which will also include work on experience and attitudes to dentistry services for this important age group.

**Purpose of activity**

**Refreshing the current report**

Following on from data provided to us by NHS England we have decided to refresh the dental report in February 2016. In this refresh we will cover the following:

- A mapping of NHS providers in the Borough – taking into account especially the availability of dental services to areas of recognised need;
- A data review to ascertain the % of patients that come from out of Borough against Barnet residents – if this is not available we will survey dentists in the Borough.

**Early Years Oral Health Project**

This commissioned project will capture the oral health and experiences of parents with young children in Barnet by using a combination of questionnaires and focus groups to target hard to reach families supported by Home-Start Barnet.

We will be carrying out 50 one-to-one interviews and one focus group (on the Grahame Park Estate in Colindale). The interviews and focus group will cover the following areas:

- The quality of the service offered by dentists
- Any barriers to take up of local dental health services (e.g. lack of understanding of the benefits, cultural issues, unaware that the service is available, or how to access it;
- Ease/difficulty of location of services
- Perception of the effectiveness of good oral health
- Impact of lifestyle on children's oral health

## Appendix B

The project will also train 3 volunteer oral health champions to disseminate information and support hard to reach parents on importance of early years oral health by promoting, and encouraging increased take-up of dental health services in Barnet.

### **Feedback from NHS England**

With regard to feedback from NHS England, we were disappointed that it took so long for NHS England to come back to us with comments on our report. They were first approached on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and we sent a number of requests for feedback after that so we could include these in our report. Unfortunately, our only response came after publication. We have noted the comments and the figures that they sent with regard to Units of Dental Activity in Barnet. We do not feel that the comments make any difference to the Dental Report as it stands.

### **Michael Rich**

Head of Healthwatch  
Community Barnet