



CYFARFOD BWRDD PRIFYSGOL IECHYD UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD MEETING

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	28 September 2023
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Provision of NHS Primary Care Personal Dental Services, Tywi/Taf, North Pembroke and Ceredigion
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Jill Paterson, Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Jill Paterson, Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Ar Gyfer Penderfyniad/For Decision

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

Due to the cessation of General Dental Service (GDS) Contracts in the Tywi/Taf (2T's), North Pembrokeshire (NP) and South Ceredigion (SC) Clusters, work has progressed to undertake a procurement process to secure the ongoing provision of NHS Dental Services.

Cefndir / Background

In accordance with Hywel Dda University Health Board's Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs), the commissioning of a new or replacement General Dental Services (GDS) Contract is conducted through a formal tender process to ensure that there is a clear and transparent procedure through which independent contractors can apply to provide NHS dental services. During 2022/23 the Health Board received notice for the following contracts:

- Tywi Dental Practice (2T's),
- Celtic Dental Practice (2T'S)
- West Street Dental Surgery (NP),
- Rhos Cottage Dental Practice (NP); and
- Charsfield Dental Surgery (SC)

As result of the above contract terminations, there are approximately 13,000 residents who no longer have routine access to NHS Dental Services. This equates to approximately 18% of the total number of residents that accessed NHS dental services across these Clusters in 2022/23.

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) Procurement Services, alongside the Health Board, have prepared the Invitation to Tender (ITT) Documentation (HDD-O-JEULT-50824) to re-provide access to NHS dental services to the previously contracted levels and finance values. The service specification included in the ITT documentation is based on the Contract Reform model of service provision.

Asesiad / Assessment

In 2019/20 (pre COVID-19 pandemic), approximately 120,000 residents accessed NHS dental care across the three Clusters. In comparison, in 2022/23, service provision had recovered to provide NHS dental services to 70,000 residents. In terms of a comparison of the average percentage population recovery rates for the Health Board and the all-Wales position, the percentage of population accessing NHS dental care within Hywel Dda has decreased from 56% in 2019/20 to 32% in 2022/23 compared to all Wales average of 69% in 2019/20 and 40% in 2022/23.

There are currently 11 Dental Practices providing NHS Dental Services in the Tywi/Taf Cluster. In 2022/23 the Cluster was at 50% recovery of its registered population accessing dental services compared with the pre COVID-19 levels. The reinvestment into this Cluster will provide access to NHS General Dental Services for approximately 7,500 residents, without investment recovery against the pre COVID-19 pandemic access will reduce to 40%.

North Pembrokeshire currently has 10 Dental Practices providing NHS Dental Services, in 2022/23 the Cluster was at 55% recovery of its registered population accessing Dental Services compared with pre COVID-19 levels. The reinvestment into this Cluster will provide access to NHS General Dental Services for approximately 1,600 residents.

South Ceredigion currently has three Dental Practices providing NHS Dental Services. In 2022/23 the Cluster was at 77% recovery compared with pre COVID-19 levels. The reinvestment into this Cluster will provide access to NHS General Dental Services for approximately 550 residents. The displaced residents under the original contract were all children.

Prior to preparing the ITT documentation, the Health Board issued an Expressions of Interest (EOI) to test the market for potential applicants under the tender process. Feedback was positive with interest in all Clusters. There is a risk that this interest may not result in actual bids through the procurement process, particularly in light of the inherent UK wide recruitment issues for Dentists and Dental Nurses. If the Health Board does not receive any successful applications under this procurement process the ITT documentation will be reviewed and updated and the procurement exercise re-run.

The key aims for GDS Contract Reform provision within the Tywi/ Taf, South Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire Clusters as set out in the ITT are:

- To provide access for the local population to NHS Dental Services.
- To deliver appropriate, quality, efficient and cost-effective services within the mandatory and potential additional services framework of the Personal Dental Services (PDS) regulations and agreement and the Welsh Government (WG) Dental Contract Reform (DCR) Programme and the associated General Dental Services/Personal Dental Services Contracts and Contract Variations in respect of Contract Reform elements.
- To develop services in line with the Welsh Government and Hywel Dda University Health Board's aim for Primary Care Dental provision to improve the oral health of the population and contribute to reduction in health inequalities.
- To provide high quality General Dental Services and potentially additional enhanced services that meet the specific needs of diverse population groups within the Health Board area, including flexibility of appointment times.
- To establish a positive working relationship between the Health Board and other professional groups to facilitate and maximise service delivery.

- To deliver services in a Multi-Disciplinary Team approach (MDT) aligned to the requirements of Contract Reform and following Welsh Government approach to develop and optimise the available skill mix.
- To deliver NHS Dental Services in line with the annual interim/contract variation guidance issued by Welsh Government for the transition of service delivery under Contract Reform.

The Contract period is being set as at 10 years with a total investment of £7.9m over the period. Board approval required is to initiate the tender process, and due to the level of investment, further approval will need to be sought from Welsh Government and the Director of Procurement for Wales before the tender documents are issued. The timeline for the procurement process from approval to evaluation is 28 September 2023 to 22 November 2023 subject to the final approval to award by all parties. Providing there are no delays in the administrative process the new Contracts are expected to commence in April 2024.

Residents affected by the termination of NHS dental services in their area are encouraged to place their names onto a holding list managed by the Health Board. The list will be transferred to the new Providers/Practices once the contracts have been awarded, but access will be prioritised based on clinical need. The Tywi/Taf, North Pembrokeshire and South Ceredigion Clusters currently have reduced access to routine dental care, as such, urgent dental treatment is managed via 111 and residents are able to access care under the Health Board Urgent Access Service.

The reduction in General Dental Services has the unintended consequence of reducing the Patient Charge Revenue (PCR) that Health Boards received as income based on dental charges for treatment. This has translated into a cost pressure of circa £1m. Welsh Government policy team has suggested that they will not be looking to offset this cost pressure and therefore in 2023-24 contingencies have been made in the dental budget to offset this cost pressure; however, this will not address the deficit in the longer term if the recommissioning of NHS dental services is not increased back to previous levels.

There could be significant clinical risks for residents with reduced access to routine NHS dental services, alongside political and reputational risks given the Ministerial focus on access to NHS dental services. There is also a risk that with the financial and workforce challenges that the service could further be reduced to an urgent access service that generates a lower level of income from PCR, with a potential further impact from an increasing number of patients becoming exempt from patient charges as a result of the current financial climate.

A programme of dental contract reform is currently being progressed with plans in place for tripartite negotiations, with representation from Welsh Government, Health Boards and the British Dental Association.

The Clinical Decision Group (CDG) at its meeting on 6 September 2023 considered whether this dental activity should be recommissioned in light of the financial challenges facing the NHS in Wales at present. It was agreed that on balance the procurement exercise should continue to be progressed, noting that should the position change during this time that further consideration of the contract award could be made towards the end of the procurement process. It was also noted that due to the value of the contract, the procurement would be subject to Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) process which is likely to mean that there would not be a contract award ahead of 1 April 2024.

Members of the CDG noted that, with a current overall reduction in activity as a result of service recovery following the COVID-19 restrictions on practice and the subsequent implementation of Contract Reform (CR), the level of PCR had in all likelihood reduced prior to the cessation of

these contracts; however, there was a recognition that there is likely to be a further reduction in the PCR without the onward commissioning of NHS dental services to replace the lost activity, which would have a further impact on the dental budget.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- **APPROVE** the procurement process to re-provide Dental Services in Tywi Taf, North Pembroke and South Ceredigion Cluster, recognising the overall improvement to access to NHS dental services that this may provide.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not Applicable
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	7. All apply
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	1. Leadership 2. Culture and valuing people 3. Data to knowledge
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	All Strategic Objectives are applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	7a Population Health 8a Decarbonisation & Sustainability 7c Social model
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	9. All HDdUHB Well-being Objectives apply

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol:

Further Information:

Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Standing Financial Instructions. 2006 NHS GDS Contracting Guidance All Procurement Guidance Business Services Authority – Dental Performance Data. Successful Procurement of the new Practice in South Ceredigion and Ammanford Clusters.
Rhestr Termau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained in the main body of the report

Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Cyfarfod Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to University Health Board:	Primary Care Contracting Group Executive Team Health Board Procurement Team Local Dental Committee CDG/FCG Welsh Government
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Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Funding for contracts in base budget, however there is recurrent cost pressure relating to patients charges.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Quality and Safety requirements set out in the ITT service specification and underpinned by the legal framework of the extant NHS Contract.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Yes – there could be recruitment issues for Dentists and dental Nurses to deliver the new Contract. The ITT sets out clear expectations for detail of staffing structures to be submitted as part of the application and the service specification is predicated on the Contract Reform model of delivering services through a multi-disciplinary approach.
Risg: Risk:	Not Applicable
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Not Applicable
Enw Da: Reputational:	Yes – however there is already Welsh Government political, and media interest in the Health Board plans to re-provide these service.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not Applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Not Applicable