

13 December 2016

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DAYBROOK DENTAL PRACTICE REPORT FINDINGS

Purpose of the Report

1. To introduce a briefing on the findings of the report examining breaches of infection control procedures at Daybrook Dental Practice by Mr Desmond D'Mello.

Information and Advice

2. In June 2014, NHS England was contacted by a whistleblower at the Daybrook Dental Practice who had concerns about the standards of clinical care being provided to patients. The whistleblower provided NHS England with supporting evidence, including covertly filmed footage of dentist, Mr Desmond D'Mello.
3. Having reviewed the evidence, NHS England immediately ordered an interim suspension of Mr D'Mello and commenced an investigation into clinical practices at the dental surgery.
4. The investigation team also consulted with clinical experts in Public Health England, who undertook a clinical analysis of the potential risk to patients. This identified that patients seen by Mr D'Mello may have been placed at a low risk of infection from blood borne viruses (hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV), due to apparent multiple failures in cross-infection control standards whilst undergoing dental treatment. Based on this clinical advice, Public Health England has recommended screening for all patients who may have been treated by Mr D'Mello, and NHS England has worked with partners to make the necessary arrangements for this. However, testing results revealed no greater incidence of infection than might be found in a typical sample of the population.
5. NHS England led a detailed investigation into this matter, with support from clinicians at Public Health England. As part of this, Mr D'Mello was reported to the General Dental Council and suspended by the GDC. Fifty six allegations were made against Mr D'Mello, and all but one of them were proved by the GDC. The allegations included:
 - Not changing gloves between patients
 - Not putting on a new surgical mask for each patient
 - Failing to wash hands between patients
 - Not sterilising dental equipment after each use
 - Issuing antibiotics to patients without any diagnosis, or checking whether they had any allergies

6. Mr Gavin Scott, the chair of the GDC panel examining Mr D'Mello's case in August 2016, said that the dentist's behaviour was "fundamentally incompatible with being a dental professional." Further, he indicated that D'Mello's failings constituted "a contemptible circus of gravely hazardous practice which placed his patients at a serious risk of infection."
7. Dr Ken Deacon, Medical Director NHS England, North Midlands will attend to brief the Joint Health Committee and answer questions. A written briefing from Dr Black is attached as an appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee consider and comment on the information provided.

Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis

Chairman of Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 9772826

Background Papers

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All