

9 December 2014

Agenda Item: 5

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

DAYBROOK DENTAL PRACTICE – APPARENT BREACH OF INFECTION CONTROL

Purpose of the Report

1. To introduce a briefing on the recall of Nottinghamshire dental patients following the apparent breach of infection control procedures at Daybrook Dental Practice.

Information and Advice

2. NHS England in Nottinghamshire has been working with Public Health England to investigate alleged breaches of infection control procedures by a single dentist, who was contracted to provide NHS dental services at the former Daybrook Dental Practice, 88 Mansfield Road in Gedling, Nottingham.
3. In June 2014, NHS England was contacted by a whistleblower at the 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.
4. 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. The investigation is ongoing and no findings have been made at this time in relation to Mr D'Mello.
5. The investigation team also consulted with clinical experts in Public Health England, who undertook a clinical analysis of the potential risk to patients. This has 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 been working with partners to make the necessary arrangements for this.
6. NHS England has been leading a detailed investigation into this matter, with support from clinicians at Public Health England. As part of this, Mr D'Mello has been reported to the General Dental Council, and been suspended by the GDC pending further investigation.

7. NHS England, with support from Public Health England, issued a media briefing on Wednesday 12 November 2014 advising members of the public who were patients of Mr D'Mello of the apparent lapses in infection control standards and the fact they may have been placed at a low risk of infection from blood borne viruses (hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV), whilst undergoing dental treatment. It is understood the number of patients who have been seen and treated by Mr D'Mello during his tenure as a dentist is about 22,000, as he had worked at the practice for over 32 years.
8. Due to the large number of patients who may be affected by this risk and the age of some of the patient records, it is not possible for NHS England to verify historic patient contact details and write to every individual patient within an acceptable time frame. Therefore a mass media exposure approach, coupled with awareness raising by key health partners in Nottinghamshire was used to make the public aware of the need to take action.
9. Despite the low risk of infection, some patients will undoubtedly be worried on hearing this news. NHS England has therefore also established a confidential advice line on 03330 142479 to provide further help and support. This advice line will be open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.
10. Patients were advised to visit the dedicated Community Clinic - temporarily set up at Arnold Health Centre, located at Highcroft Medical Centre, High Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7BQ - to seek advice about next steps which may be required based on their own individual circumstances. This clinic will initially be open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.
11. NHS England also wrote separately to the 166 patients who were covertly filmed to explain what has happened, and offer assurances about the security of the footage obtained.
12. Dr Doug Black, Medical Director NHS England, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team 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:

- 1) Receive the briefing
- 2) Ask questions
- 3) Schedule further consideration, as necessary

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