

Devon Health & Wellbeing Board

By email

Our ref GP/AG1412

19 December 2023

Dear Board Members

At a recent meeting of South Hams District Council a motion was brought by Councillors Yardy and Birch concerning NHS Dentistry Services.

In introducing the Motion Cllr Yardy stated that it related to encouraging the NHS and associated services to support a different way of providing dental care, through a 'no frills' Dental Care Pilot proposal, seeking to reduce dental inequalities in Devon.

He further stated that in effect, NHS dental services were inaccessible at the point of delivery and there was a need to think in a different way about the provision of dental services to increase accessibility and affordability for patients and also the viability of paying Dentists to undertake these services. Success would result in benefits to the community and a reduction of stress on NHS services, particularly within the A&E setting.

He advised that the pilot was backed by a business case and a Dentist with some 24 years' experience who was willing to invest his time to ensure that this Pilot could move forward, but that in order to move forward it required further investigation, and needed the support of the Council for this investigation work to take place before the findings could then be taken to the Devon Health & Wellbeing Board.

In supporting the Motion, Cllr Birch advised that he and Cllr Yardy had met with the Dentist who wished to progress the Pilot Scheme and that, though it was outside the direct remit of the Council, the crisis was affecting all communities, and that South Hams could not sit by and do nothing but should try to help to move things forward.

In debate, Members were unanimously supportive of this Motion and wished to put on record their thanks to the proposer and seconder for their work on it and for submitting it for inclusion on the meeting agenda.

It was then resolved that:

In a move to address the dentistry crisis it is resolved that the Council encourages the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board and our local MPs (Anthony Mangnall and Sir Gary Streeter) to work with local dental practitioners and patients to investigate the setting up of a pilot scheme to provide accessible no-frills dental care for all age groups, with the aim of encouraging the relevant NHS services to introduce the scheme across South Hams.

The Council would welcome your support on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Pannell', with a horizontal line underneath it.

pp
CLLR GUY PANNELL
CHAIRMAN SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

cc Anthony Mangnall MP
Sir Gary Streeter MP