

Health and Social Services Committee

HSS(2)-12-06(p.5)

Meeting date: Wednesday 5th July 2006

Venue: Siambr, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: NHS dentistry

Purpose

To provide an update of the take up of the new dental contract introduced on 1st April 2006.

Summary

At the meeting of 11th May (HSS(2)-08-06 under the Minister's report – Section 11), the Minister was asked to provide a paper on the number of dentists who have not signed up to the new dental contract; their geographical location; how many patients were affected by dentists not signing up; and of those dentists, how many were involved in the Personal Dental Service (PDS) pilot scheme. This information received from Local Health Boards (LHBs) is detailed at Annex 1.

LHBs have already begun replacing the lost capacity through increased access provided by PDS pilot arrangements or are creating new NHS provision with freed up resources. On 9 June I also announced that £3 million would be specifically targeted at those areas where access was most difficult.

There has been some misunderstanding of recent figures released by the NHS Business Services Authority about the total number of dentists in Wales which showed a reduction over the year to March 2006. The figures relate only to the General Dental Service and do not include those dentists in Personal Dental Service pilot schemes. The exits from the GDS population is the movement of dentists from GDS into PDS. The figures have apparently been derived from the regular quarterly manpower tables but do not give the complete picture and the number of dentists has actually gone up. Between 31 December 2005 and 31 March 2006 the number of GDS dentists decreased by 313 to 678 but the number of GDS and PDS dentists increased by 13 to 1,087.

Consideration

Paper to note.

Financial implications

The Health and Social Services Resources Directorate have seen and noted there are no financial implications arising directly from this paper (CBCW2625).

Cross cutting themes

This paper has no implications for equal opportunities or sustainable development.

Action for subject committee

Paper to note.

Brian Gibbons

Minister for Health and Social Services

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Annex 1

Local Health Board	No. of dentists who did not sign a new contract	No. of PDS pilot dentists who did not sign a new contract	Registrations at 31.3.06	De-registrations	Net total after de-registrations
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	38,340	0	38,340
Bridgend	0	0	82,897	5,755	77,142
Caerphilly	0	0	94,837	3,819	91,018
Cardiff	5	0	180,354	4,619	175,735
Carmarthenshire	3	0	48,591	5,199	43,392
Ceredigion	0	0	22,006	0	22,006
Conwy	1	0	34,702	125	34,577
Denbighshire	0	0	52,842	0	52,842
Flintshire	0	0	41,980	0	41,980
Gwynedd	3	0	30,252	8,052	22,200

Isle of Anglesey	1	0	24,751	0	24,751
Merthyr Tydfil	1	0	27,074	3,000	24,074
Monmouthshire	7	0	45,550	15,238	30312
Neath Port Talbot	1	0	73,980	3,700	70,280
Newport	0	0	81,890	800	81,090
Pembrokeshire	3	0	25,421	1,889	23,532
Powys	0	0	55,481	0	55,481
Rhonda Cynon Taff	1	0	145,622	1,811	143,811
Swansea	0	0	144,852	5,000	139,852
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	54,071	8,100	45,971
Torfaen	0	0	42,853	300	42,553
Wrexham	0	0	59,405	6,900	52,505
Totals	26	0	1,407,751	74,307	1,333,444