











An NHS Dentist 4 All – Improving Dental Services across Lincolnshire

In just over a week, over 150 individuals have shared both their experiences of NHS Dental Services in Lincolnshire and views of how services should be improved.

So, what have you told us so far?

1. The lack of NHS dental care is having a negative impact on peoples' immediate and future health
2. Existing NHS patients are finding their NHS practice is now solely private
3. Other patients throughout the county have never had the opportunity to have an NHS dentist due to lack of services
4. Patients are being left with no alternative but to pay for private treatment (however, many cannot afford this)
5. Individuals are routinely travelling to other counties for NHS dental services

What would you like to see improved?

			
More NHS dentists and practices	Improve NHS dental provision for children	NHS practices should not be able to become solely private	Private patients should not be prioritised over NHS patients at NHS practices
			
Better pay and contracts for NHS dentists	Improve disabled access	More money should be spent on prevention	Greater transparency on cost of NHS treatment
			
	A local dental teaching hospital	Greater transparency on waiting and practice lists	

What works well?

Sadly, the most frequent answer to this question was 'nothing'. Indeed, many responded by saying they had no experience of NHS Dental Care in Lincolnshire so could not comment.

For the handful of individuals who did share their positive experiences, they highlighted the benefits of:

- Text reminders for appointments
- Practices offering appointments in the evening and at weekends
- Regular local, appointments and timely, affordable, good quality care

What is Healthwatch Lincolnshire doing to improve access to NHS dental services in the county?



Healthwatch Lincolnshire continue to raise dental access concerns both locally and nationally. The findings of this report will be shared and directly influence the Lincolnshire Dental strategy 2023-2026 that is currently being put together. This strategy will set out what needs to be done over the next three years to improve NHS oral health services and drive improvements in oral health across the county. We have also been asked to provide patient participation at the Lincolnshire Dental Strategy face to face stakeholders' workshop and as a result of overwhelming interest we are now setting up our own focus group to record even more patient experiences.

Our campaign will next look at feedback from seldom-heard groups: those who are living in deprived and rurally isolated areas, cancer patients, wheelchair users, pregnant women, parents, those with sensory loss as well as the dental workforce themselves.

To read the full report about our campaign, please visit our website: [Home | Healthwatch Lincolnshire](#)

The full report discusses the findings in more detail, including, where relevant, patient experiences as well as what providers such as NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board, Public Health and NHS England are doing to improve access to NHS dental services in the county.

Get in touch with us today:

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