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22nd October 2010

Mr John Leach
Chair Stockport LINK
Pebble Enterprises
Labyrinth House
45 Middle Hillgate
Stockport
SK1 3DG

Dear John

Dental Services for Patients with Special Needs

Thank you very much for your invitation to come along to your meeting held on Wednesday 20th October 2010. I very much welcomed the opportunity to meet you and your members and also grateful for an interesting debate at the end of my informal presentation. As discussed, I agreed to come back to you with further information on the dental service provided at Kingsgate for patients with special needs. Please find attached a briefing paper prepared by Lee Holden, our Professional Dental Advisor, who would be happy to come along to a future LINKs meeting to discuss this, and any other dental queries that you might have.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Laura Browse
Associate Director of Commissioning Primary & Community Services

cc Lee Holden

Dental Service for Adults at Kingsgate

The aim of the service is to provide dental care for adults with special needs who can not obtain care from an NHS family dentist and can be treated in a community setting.

The groups of people that are most commonly seen by the service are those with severe learning difficulties and people with significant physical disabilities, medical or mental health problems.

Access is by referral from a health or social care professional.

Each referral is screened by a dentist at Kingsgate and where referrals are made which fall outside the remit of the service the referrer is informed.

An example of a referral that would not be accepted is where a person is referred as they use a wheelchair because they have difficulties walking (but can receive dental care in the normal way) however their usual dentist does not have access for their wheelchair so the dentist decides that they can't see the person.

The Kingsgate clinic has one dentist who provides this service. Consequently they can only provide single courses of treatment for most people. It is expected where a person is referred by a dentist that the dentist will continue to provide regular dental inspections following the treatment at Kingsgate. The patient would be re-referred if there was a need for further treatment that the practice couldn't provide.

There are practices which do have wheelchair access in Stockport and the dental helpline can help in allocating people to these practices. Stockport PCT insists all practices comply with DDA regulations but there are some older practice buildings which can not, for example, have a ramp fitted externally or doors widened. The PCT will not commission any new or additional dental services where there is not, for example, wheelchair access.