

MODERNISING NHS DENTAL SERVICES IN SCOTLAND: CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Scottish Pensioners' Forum welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation paper and hopes that the response to suggestions made will be positive.

2.2 Changing Demography

Services for the elderly, children and those with special needs must be more focussed in the future. They are the most vulnerable groups in society and very easily fall through the net. They are also the least attractive groups for private practitioners.

2.3.1. General Dental Services

The present system of payment per item of treatment does not encourage preventative treatment, which is particularly important for older people. The continuing pattern of NHS trained practitioners undertaking only private work is unacceptable.

3.3.3 Community Dental Services

More funding should be put into Community Dental Services and the service should not just be a 'safety net'. Communities would use local services if they were available and the resulting promotion of dental health in communities, could lead to general health improvements. The access for disabled persons is often of better quality

3.2 Workforce Planning in Scotland

If practitioners are trained the NHS, they should have to take NHS patients. If they opt for private work, they should be made to repay training costs.

3.3 Further measures

We very much welcome the systematic introduction of free dental check ups for all – this is a big step to improve dental health in Scotland.

4.3 Guiding Principles

Available and reasonably priced access to treatment and advice is essential in a dental service for the twenty first century.

6.4 Patient Charges

Children, children in further education, people with special needs, pregnant and nursing mothers, adults on benefits, older people receiving state pension should have free core treatment.

Replacement false teeth should be part of core treatment.

Orthodontic treatment should be free for children.

Implants, bridges, tooth whitening veneers and other cosmetic treatments should be paid for.