

REPORT TO:	NHS SOMERSET INTEGRATED CARE BOARD ICB Board Part A	ENCLOSURE:
		G
DATE OF MEETING:	23 May 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Somerset Dental Recovery Workplan 2024/25	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Matthew Mills, Head of Pharmaceutical, Optical and Dental Services (PODS)	
EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:	Bernie Marden, Chief Medical Officer	
PRESENTED BY:	Sukeina Kassam, Director of Primary Care	

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	SELECT (Place an 'X' in relevant box(es) below)
Approve	To formally receive a report and approve its recommendations, (authorising body/committee for the final decision)	X
Endorse	To support the recommendation (not the authorising body/committee for the final decision)	
Discuss	To discuss, in depth, a report noting its implications	
Note	To note, without the need for discussion	
Assurance	To assure the Board/Committee that systems and processes are in place, or to advise of a gap along with mitigations	

SELECT (Place an 'X' in relevant box(es) below)	LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (Please select any which are impacted on / relevant to this paper)
X	Objective 1: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population
X	Objective 2: Reduce inequalities
X	Objective 3: Provide the best care and support to children and adults
X	Objective 4: Strengthen care and support in local communities
	Objective 5: Respond well to complex needs
	Objective 6: Enable broader social and economic development
X	Objective 7: Enhance productivity and value for money

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION / ENGAGEMENT

The paper was taken to Management Board for discussion on Monday 13 May 2024.
 The report was produced with support and input from the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub and engagement with Somerset LA - Public Health.

REPORT TO COMMITTEE / BOARD

This paper sets out our Somerset system response to the recently published NHS Dental Recovery Plan (February 2024) and provides stakeholders across Somerset with an overview of the priorities listed in the NHS Dental Recovery Plan and its implementation within Somerset and the South West NHSE Region.

NHS Somerset ICB, the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub and the wider Somerset Integrated Care System aim to address the challenges faced in the provision of NHS Dental Services across Somerset in a systematic and organised manner.

Our aim is to ensure that people in Somerset have timely access to necessary NHS dental services, regardless of geographical location, socioeconomic status or disability.

It includes detail of each of the key requirements encompassed within the plan and the work that has been undertaken, along with the proposed direction of travel and associated next steps. The paper is to give assurance to the Board/Committee that there is a comprehensive programme of work scheduled with allocated resources to ensure delivery of the Dental Recovery Plan.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS – KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED
(please enter 'N/A' where not applicable)

Reducing Inequalities/Equality & Diversity	The Dental Recovery Plan is to ensure that the Somerset population have timely access to necessary NHS dental services. It will ensure that healthcare services are provided in an equitable way for all; resolving all challenges as we progress.
Quality	The Dental Clinical Lead will ensure that the quality of service delivery, patient safety, patient experience and any impacts on clinical effectiveness are fully addressed and resolved.
Safeguarding	Safeguarding is key in our response to improving access to primary care services with any mitigations actioned as required.
Financial/Resource/ Value for Money	New national funding has been specifically allocated from government that will provide increased dental access for patients, with the introduction of a new patient premium, uplift to the minimum unit of dental activity (UDA) value and recruitment incentives in the form of golden hello payments to attract new dentists into NHS work.
Sustainability	As part of the implementation of the dental recovery plan, there has been consideration of the Somerset ICS Green Plan 2022-2025 which will include sustainable ways of working within the various organisations and stakeholders involved.
Governance/Legal/ Privacy	N/A
Confidentiality	N/A
Risk Description	All risks or issues identified will be documented in the dental risk register with mitigations.

Somerset Dental Recovery Workplan

2024/25

May 2024



Introduction

This paper sets out our Somerset system response to the recently jointly published Dental Recovery Plan (7 February 2024) by DHSC and NHSE. This provides stakeholders across Somerset with an overview of the priorities listed in the NHS Dental Recovery Plan and its implementation within Somerset and the South West NHSE Region.

It has three core components:

- Expanding access – with targeted population health approach
- Prevention - major new focus on young children
- Workforce - Developing and increasing capacity of the dental workforce

NHS Somerset ICB, the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub and the wider Somerset Integrated Care System aim to address the challenges faced in the provision of NHS Dental Services across Somerset in a systematic and organised manner.

Our aim is to ensure that people have timely access to necessary NHS dental services, regardless of geographical location, socioeconomic status or disability.



Context

- Reduction in access of dental services: Between 2020 and 2022 at least 7 million fewer patients saw an NHS dentist compared with pre- pandemic levels (2022 data compared with 2019).
- Poor oral health amongst children: The cost of hospital admissions for tooth decay related extraction in 2021 to 2022 was £50.9 million. This particularly affects children and young people in more deprived areas, with those in the most deprived 20% of areas of the country are 2.5 times as likely to have experience of tooth decay.
- Workforce: Although the total number of dental practitioners (dentists, dental surgeons, orthodontists and periodontists) in employment in England grew from around 29,000 to 37,000 between 2010/11 and 2020/21. The number of dentists carrying out NHS activity has not changed to the same degree, with nearly 24,000 dentists carrying out *some* NHS dentistry in 2020/21 compared to almost 23,000 in 2010/11.



Background

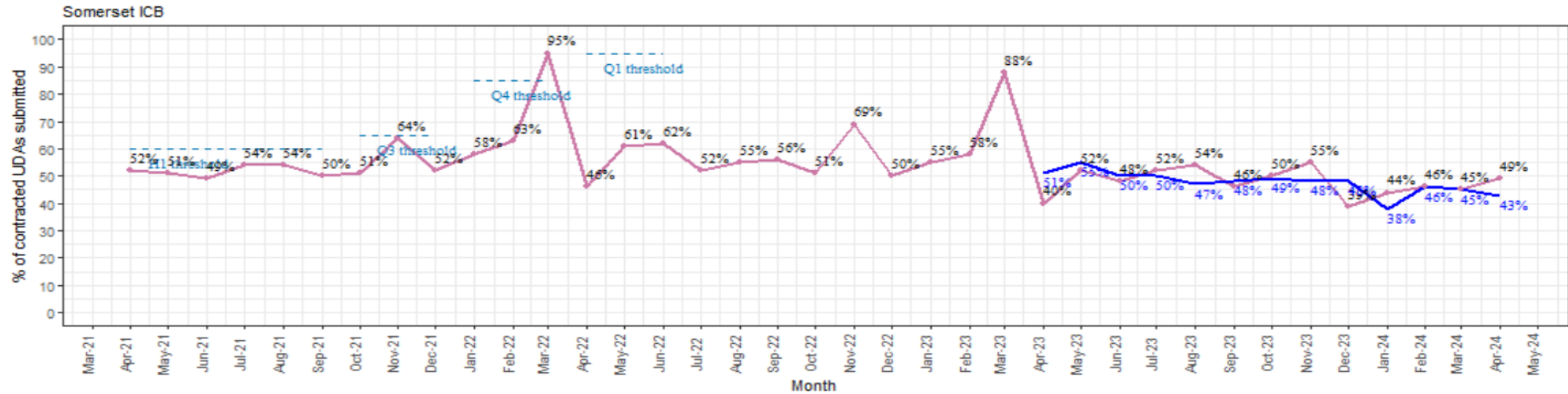
Similar to all parts of England, the South West is challenged in terms of access for NHS funded dental care. Recent national performance reports put the SW at the lowest rate of contractual performance across all seven regions. This is reflected in the significant level of complaints received about accessing NHS funded care.

- The South West region experienced challenges prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, with difficulties in recruiting to dentist and dental nurse vacancies. This impacted on the ability of providers to provide the full range of appointments they are contracted to deliver.
- Reduced volume of dental appointments significantly impacted providers in delivering NHS appointments.
- High street dental practices not fulfilling their contract typically do not take on new patients, due to existing patient demand, and this can exacerbate access issues.
- High street dental practices are paid at different UDA rates following historical arrangements. This leads to competition and challenges recruiting and retaining staff.



Somerset Overview

There are currently 73 primary care contractors, contracted to deliver 792,298 UDAs and 8 primary care contractors, contracted to deliver 39,883 UOAs



UDA Performance

Average contract delivery for Somerset is currently at 49%. This compares to 69% in the South West region. In 2023-24, 6 contracts (8%) delivered the required UDAs or more to be on track. The South West regional average was 11%.

The chart above shows the performance for Somerset up to April 2024, highlighting the percentage of contracted UDAs delivered, scaled up to 12 months (i.e. annual performance).



Access Rates

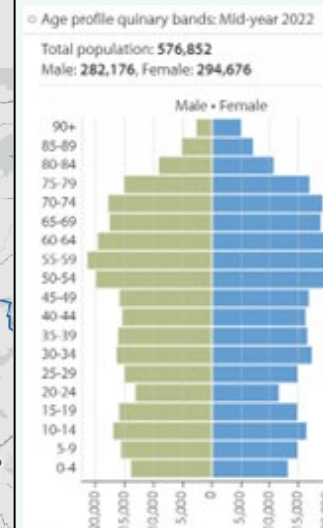
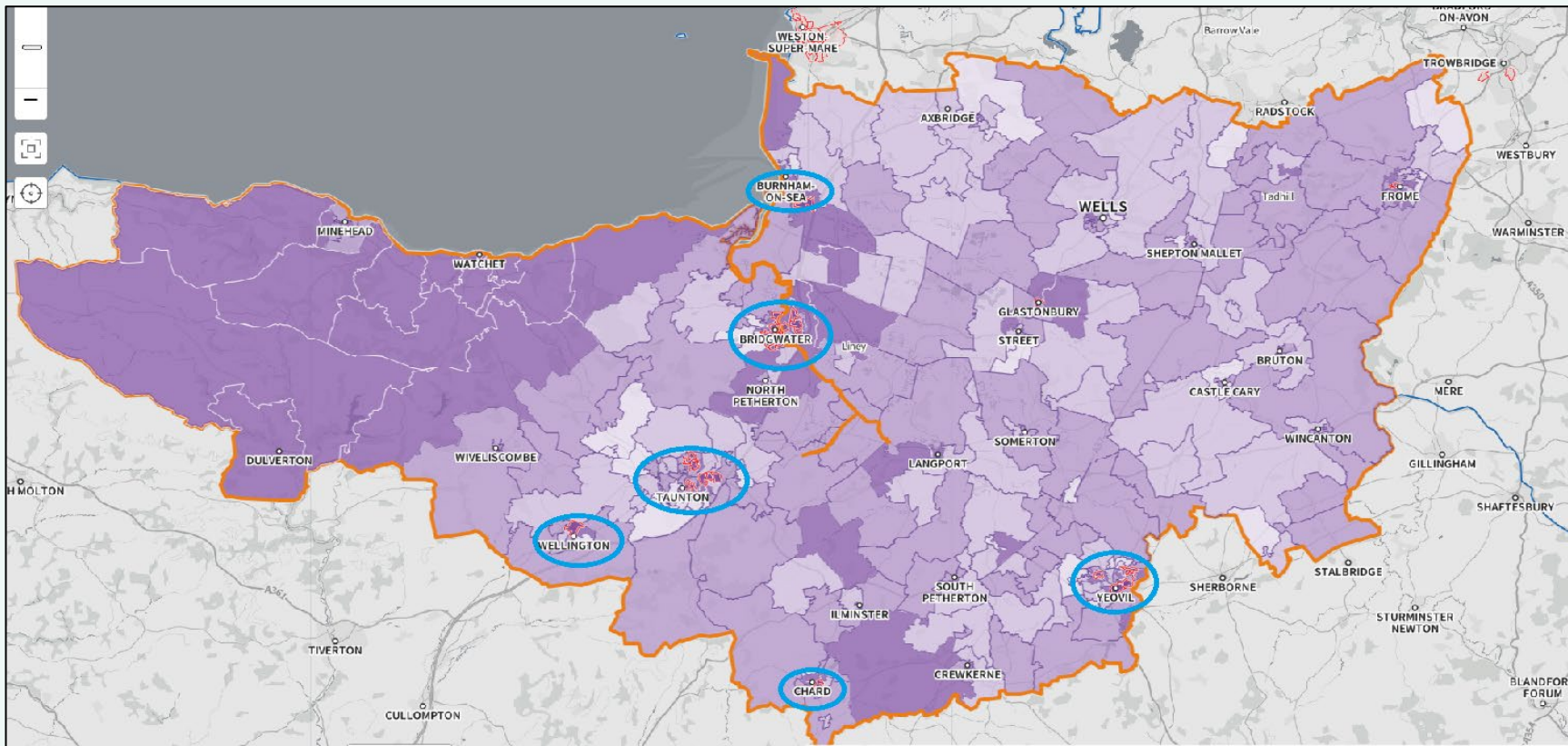
The table below shows the adult and child access rates for the period 2017-2024. This shows that access for adults (attending a dentist in the past 24 months) has reduced year on year since 17/18, now standing at 18.22%, whilst for children the access rates have reduced to 32% in 23/24.

		17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Somerset	Children seen in the previous 12 months as a % of the population	60.64	59.96	53.61	33.42	45.25	<i>*Data not validated</i>	32.00
	Adults seen in the previous 24 months as a % of the population	56.81	54.85	50.92	43.67	38.09	<i>*Data not validated</i>	18.22
Southwest region average	Children seen in the previous 12 months as a % of the population	60.49	60.21	54.13	34.84	45.81	<i>*Data not validated</i>	37.14
	Adults seen in the previous 24 months as a % of the population	50.98	49.95	47.27	40.91	35.53	<i>*Data not validated</i>	21.32

The access rates for the whole South West Region for 23/24 were 21.3% for adults and 37.14% for children, meaning Somerset’s access rates are lower for adults and children than the regional average.



Targeted locations in Somerset for increasing Dental access and provision



The purple shading highlight the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) zones

The IMD is composed of seven domains combined which include the following weighting; Health Deprivation (13.5%), Income Deprivation (22.5%), Employment Deprivation (22.5%), Education Deprivation (13.5%) Crime Deprivation (9.3%), Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%), Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%)

*Somerset's Index of Multiple Deprivation average score is 18.55 (data from the Indices of Deprivation 2019)
The England-wide Index of Multiple Deprivation distribution is 0.54 to 92.73 with a mean value of 21.67.

Core20PLUS5 – The red areas show the most deprived 20% of the national population that is identified by the national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD has seven domains with indicators accounting for a wide range of social determinants of health.



National Programmes



Somerset

	Description	Programme Cost
New Patient Premium	Increase access for new patients by introducing a new patient payment of either £50 or £15 for each patient, depending on the treatment needed, in addition to the funding the practice would already receive for their care (available until March 2025).	£0
Minimum UDA Rate Uplift to £28	Raise the minimum UDA value to £28.	£350,000
Mobile Dental Vans	Launch a new dental van service for the most rural communities, with the first vans up and running later this year.	£720,000
'Golden Hellos'	Attract dentists into areas in need with 'golden hello' payments of £20,000, starting with a first cohort of up to 240 dentists later this year.	TBD
	Total	



Local Programmes - Access

	Description	Programme Cost
Rapid Commissioning	Rapid commissioning process to secure additional mandatory dental services activity. EOI for all existing contractors to deliver additional, recurrent UDAs via a variation to their existing GDS/PDS contract.	£200,000*
South Somerset Procurement	Reprocurement of lost activity in Chard and Crewkerne. Implement learning form the wellington procurement from 2022/23 to ensure expedited delivery. Decision made on future of NHS PS building.	£1,200,000*
Wellington Procurement	Mobilisation of contract through dedicated support to provider. Managed comms and engagement to implement learnings from St Paul's, Bristol.	£636,600
HUC Dental Pathways	Support HUC following review of impact of NHS 111 dental calls by implementing dedicated pathways to manage demand and capacity	£300,000
	Total	£2,336,600



Local Programmes - Access

	Description	Programme Cost
Additional Urgent Care Appointments	EOI out to contractors to increase the number of urgent care appointments available.	£396,000
Stabilisation Pilot Expansion	EOI to increase the number of stabilisation sessions available and improve geographic spread (currently concentrated in West Somerset)	£330,000
UDA/UOA Overperformance	Dental policy allows payment for activity up to 102% of contracted UDAs/UOAs. This can be increased to 110% at commissioner's discretion. Agree at start of year to honour up to 110% threshold for all providers.	£52,000
Orthodontic Non-recurrent Funding	Offer non-recurrent funding to orthodontic providers who have the capacity to deliver additional UOAs in 2024/25, and are on track to deliver their contracts in 2023/24, enabling more patients to be treated.	£154,291.43
	Total	£932,291.43



Local Programmes - Access

	Description	Programme Cost
Smile Dental Triage	EOI out to contractors to increase the number of urgent care appointments available.	£50,000
Health Inclusion Flexible Commissioning	EOI to increase the number of stabilisation sessions available and improve geographic spread (currently concentrated in West Somerset)	£60,000
Domiciliary Service (± Mouth Care Matters)	Dental policy allows payment for activity up to 102% of contracted UDAs/UOAs. This can be increased to 110% at commissioner's discretion. Agree at start of year to honour up to 110% threshold for all providers.	£100,000
	Total	£932,291.43



Local Programmes – Workforce & Digital

	Description
Appointment of ICB Management Support (FTC)	Extension to existing fixed term contract to increase ICB capacity to deliver transformational workstreams.
Appointment of ICB Dental Clinical Lead (FTC)	Recruitment of an ICB Dental Clinical Lead to support with provider engagement and service delivery via a sessional fixed term contract.
Supporting International Dental Graduates	Provide support to dentists relocating to the South West whose primary dental qualification is from outside the UK. Seek to increase workforce recruitment and retention.
Peer Support	Offer funding to promote opportunities for NHS Dental teams to come together and share experiences and identify areas to improve the quality and access to services to patients.



Local Programmes – Workforce & Digital

	Description
Digital Referrals	EOI out to contractors to increase the number of urgent care appointments available.
GIS Mapping Tool	Continue access to GIS mapping tool which provides geographic data mapping of NHS dental service access rates. Work with SCW CSU to develop the tool to include additional datasets, including IMD, population growth and access changes over time.
Total Programme Cost	
£186,750	



Local Programmes - Other

- Support for Somerset Council with review of Oral Health Improvement Service
 - ❖ Alignment of existing Roderick's contract with Dental Recovery Plan priorities when details become available (e.g. Fluoride Varnishing Scheme)
 - ❖ Review of supervised toothbrushing and modifying deployment to achieve best return on investment.
- Development of First Dental Steps
 - ❖ Current model for referral into community dental services unable to mobilise. Look to develop capacity in CDS or find alternative provider model which meets safeguarding requirements.



Local Programmes - Other

- Review of minimum and average UDA rates in Somerset and across the South West to determine affordability of further UDA uplifts – South West working group currently convenes fortnightly to take forward.
- Development of a robust rebasing strategy which looks to manage the process of moving UDAs out of habitually underperforming contracts and into other contracts/models of care to minimise impact to patients. This needs to be paired with a robust plan around debt management
- Review of child friendly practice evaluation with look to developing a commissioning model (± Looked After Children).
- Review of stabilisation pilot programme in order to develop a multi-year commissioning model from 2025/26



Local Programmes - Other

- Tier 2 services procurement – Somerset timeline April 2025/26
- Improved engagement with NHS Dental Contractors and dedicate programme support to LDC development.
- Development of primary/secondary care interface (above and beyond digital referrals) with aims to increase cross-sector communications and promote reduction in wait times for GA services.
- South West data sharing – potential to be picked up via CEO network.



Successful Outcome Measures

- Improved dental access pathways and wait times for NHS appointments
- Increase of new Adults and Child patients accessing NHS dental services
- Improved Oral Health of Children & Adults
- Patient Experience & Satisfaction surveys



Dental Programme Schedule

	Planning
	Implementation
	Delivery
	Review



		2024/25											
		Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4		
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
National Programme	New Patient Premium	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Minimum UDA Rate Uplift to £28	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Mobile Dental Vans	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Golden Hellos	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
Local Programmes - Access	Rapid Commissioning	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	South Somerset Procurement	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Wellington Procurement	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	HUC Dental Pathways	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Additional Urgent Care Appointments	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Stabilisation Pilot Expansion	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	UDA/UOA Overperformance	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Orthodontic Non-Recurrent Funding	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Smile Dental Triage	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Health Inclusion Flexible Commissioning	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Domiciliary Service (± Mouth Care Matters)	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	Local Programmes - Workforce	Appointment of ICB Management Support (FTC)	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery
Appointment of ICB Dental Clinical Lead (FTC)		Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
Supporting International Dental Graduates		Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
Peer Support		Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
Local Programmes - Digital	Digital Referrals	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review
	GIS Mapping Tool	Planning	Implementation	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review	Delivery	Review

