

## HOSC – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Members' Questions

Cllr Ruth Houghton

Bishop's Castle hospital was closed on a temporary basis in November 2021. Some 18 months later it has still not re-opened. What are the plans for the future of Bishop's Castle and other Community Hospitals in Shropshire ?

Cllr Bernie Bentick

The response to my Question on 23rd March 2023 to Shropshire Council's Health and Social Care Overview Committee stated:

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020) 276,001 Shropshire patients attended NHS dental practices within a 24 month period and this figure had remained relatively static during the preceding 2 years. At the lowest point during the pandemic (February 2022) 204,914 patients attended NHS dental practices and by January 2023 the number of patients accessing NHS dental practices had increased to 239,267. The gap between the historic level of Shropshire patients that regularly accessed NHS dental practices and those that are currently attending NHS dental practices is 36,734 patients.

My question is:

1. What were the number of individual patients who attended Shropshire's NHS Dental Practices and **separately** the number of attendances for the following time periods: April 2020 to March 2021, April 2021 to March 2022, April 2022 to March 2023, as many patients will have had more than 1 attendance during a 12 month time period?
2. How many **new** NHS patients were registered to Shropshire Dental Practices over the above 3 time periods, in the following 3 groups: aged 17 and younger, aged 18 and over and those entitled to free dental care?
3. How many Shropshire residents are not registered with a Dental Practice?