

Dental Service Equity Audit for Primary Care Dental Services across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB

Introduction

A Dental Service Equity Audit identifies how fairly dental services are distributed relative to the oral health needs of the population.

The NHS England 2023/24 priorities and operational planning guidance reconfirms the ongoing need to recover services to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan (NHSE, 2023). It includes an ambition to recover dental activity, towards pre-pandemic levels and to ensure fair allocation and distribution of resources towards those most in need. A Dental Service Equity Audit supports this ambition.

The aim of this audit is to assess levels of access to NHS primary care dental services across Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ICB at ward level and review available oral health and deprivation data for those wards. Information from the local Dental Advice Line and Healthwatch will provide insights from the public, and current and planned housing developments will help to identify areas with anticipated population growth. This information will support the identification of initial priority areas for those with the poorest oral health, who also have the lowest levels of access to services. This will inform the dental commissioners when prioritising targeted action to improve access to dental services and help reduce inequities in access to dental services across the ICB.

The decision making process in regard to NHS dental service commissioning is undertaken against a backdrop of differential population growth and a growing private dental sector. In addition, the public can access NHS dental care wherever they choose as there is no 'catchment' area for dental practices, unlike for general medical practices. These factors create a very dynamic environment for dental commissioning, and this dental service equity audit should therefore be reviewed and updated regularly to evaluate the impact of commissioning dental services and to identify new priority areas for future commissioning.

Oral Health Profile of Shropshire Telford and Wrekin ICB

The most recent oral health data is that collected during the 2021/2022 National Dental Epidemiology Programme survey of 5 year old children. Data on adult oral health is limited and have not been included in this report.

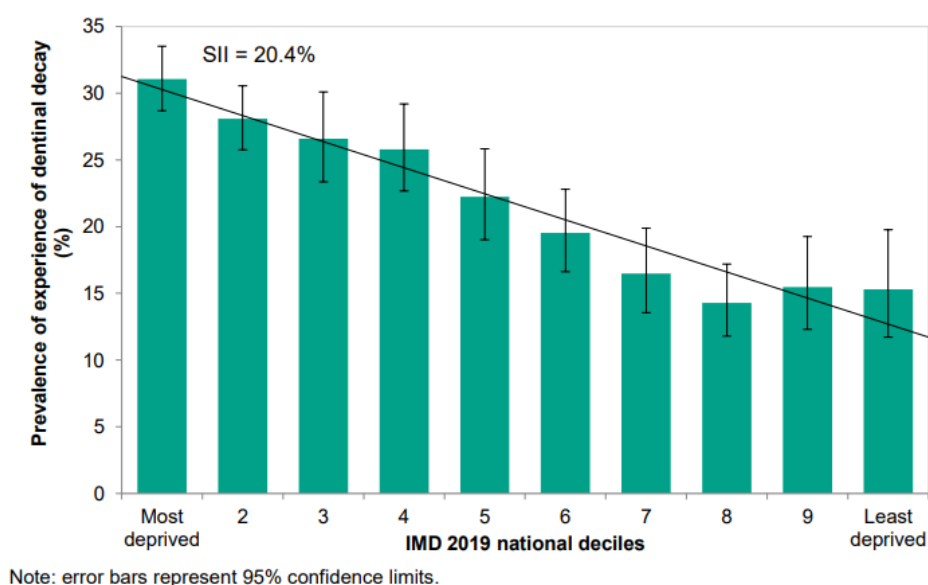
The percentage of children found to have experienced decay into dentine by the age of 5 years was 17% for the ICB (OHID, 2023). This is lower than the average across the West Midlands (23.8%) and England (23.7%) (OHID, 2023).

However, the average of 17% masks variations in dental decay across the area. Graph 1 shows that children living in the most deprived 20% of areas of the country are 2.5 times more likely to have experienced tooth decay (35.1%) than those living in the least deprived 20% of areas (13.5%)..

Each 5 year old child examined who had experienced tooth decay had an average of just over 3 teeth affected by tooth decay. It is likely that this will have caused pain and for some will have resulted in tooth extractions under general anaesthetic. Indeed, during 2022/23, 565 children living in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin received a general anaesthetic for tooth extractions. [Hospital tooth extractions in 0 to 19 year olds: 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hospital-tooth-extractions-in-0-to-19-year-olds-2023)

Disparities are also evident in the experience of dentinal decay by ethnic group, which was significantly higher in the other ethnic group (44.8%) and the Asian or Asian British ethnic group (37.7%).

Figure 1: Slope index of inequality in the prevalence of experience of dentinal decay in 5 year olds in the West Midlands



[National Dental Epidemiology Programme \(NDEP\) for England: oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-dental-epidemiology-programme-ndep-for-england-oral-health-survey-of-5-year-old-children-2022)
(www.gov.uk)

Dental decay (caries) data is currently only available at local authority level for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. The dental epidemiology team (Shropshire Community NHS Trust) and the local authorities are currently working to improve dental survey consent rates to enable more granular information to be collected in the future.

Water Fluoridation in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

All water contains the element fluoride. Fluoridation of water supplies at the level of 1 part fluoride in 1 million parts of water protects teeth from tooth decay and reduces inequalities in dental health.

Around 22 000 people in the south-eastern corner of Shropshire bordering Wolverhampton and Staffordshire benefit from fluoridated water which was introduced in the mid to late 1980s as part of the Worcestershire fluoridation scheme. Communities receiving fluoridated water include Bridgnorth, Eardington, Quatford, Claverley, Badger, Albrighton, Cosford and Boningale. The positive impact of water fluoridation on oral health should be taken into consideration when prioritising areas for investment in dental services.

Figure 2: Extent of water fluoridation in Shropshire



Deprivation in the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICB area

Given the clear association between deprivation and dental caries, the use of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) aids identification of those communities where the burden of dental decay is likely to be most significant. IMD is a combined measure of deprivation based on a total of 37 separate indicators, grouped into 7 domains.

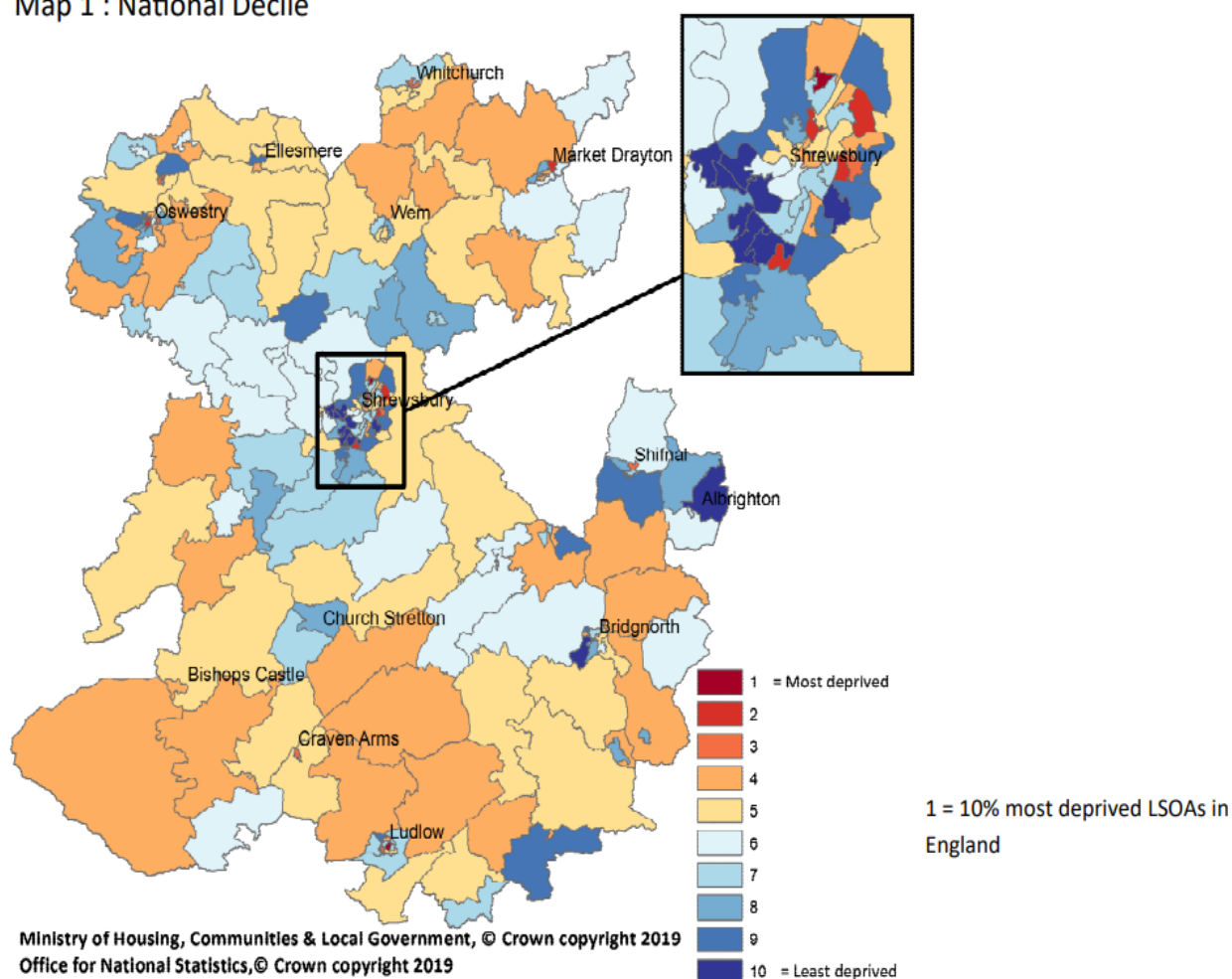
IMD is a measure of relative deprivation for areas called, Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and is used to quantify deprivation. LSOAs are small geographical areas, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households which are then grouped into wards (PHE, 2018). IMD indices relatively rank each LSOA area in England from most deprived to least deprived and is split into deciles, with IMD 1 and 2 referring to the most deprived 20% of the population.

This report focuses on IMD 1&2 areas to align with Core20PLUS5, the national approach which targets the most deprived 20% of the population as identified by IMD (NHSE, 2022). This supports the reduction of health inequalities at both national and system level.

Across the ICB, there are 588 LSOAs (324 in Telford and Wrekin and 264 in Shropshire). Of these LSOAs, 41 are IMD 1&2.

Maps 1 & 2 illustrate the IMD deciles of deprivation across Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin and respectively. Shades of red indicate the most deprived LSOAs.

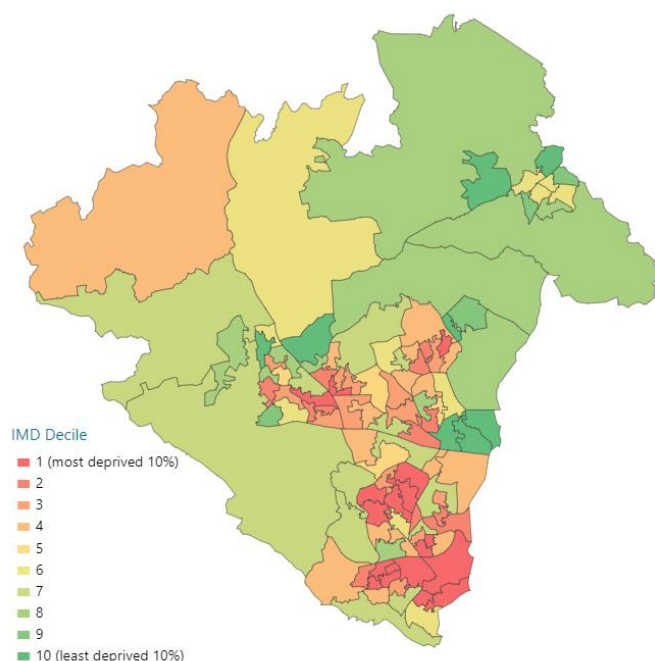
Map 1 : National Decile



Wards which include the 20% most deprived communities in Shropshire are: Castlefields and Ditherington, Harlescott, Monkmoor, Sundorne, Ludlow East, Market Drayton East, Market Drayton West, Oswestry South, Oswestry West and Meole.

Map 2

Overall Deprivation in Telford and Wrekin



Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government © Crown Copyright 2019
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Wards which include the 20% most deprived communities in Telford and Wrekin are: Woodside, Madeley and Sutton Hill, Malinslee and Dawley Bank, Donnington, Dawley and Aqueduct, College, Brookside, Donnington, Hadley and Leegomery, The Nedge, Arleston, Haygate, Park, Wrockwardine Wood and Trench, and St Georges

Access to NHS dental services for residents of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant reduction in access to dental care across the UK. Dental practices were closed from 25th March -7th June 2020, with access for urgent dental conditions only via Urgent care hubs. Thereafter a very gradual relaxing of infection prevention rules occurred which continued to limit the number of patients that dental services could see each day. 'Normal' activity targets were not reinstated until July 2022. Dental service access has still not fully 'recovered' compared with the last full year of data at 31st March 2019.

At 31st March 2019 61% of resident children had seen an NHS dentist in the previous 12 months.

At 31st March 2022 50% of resident children had seen an NHS dentist in the previous 12 months.

At 31st March 2023 58% of resident children had seen an NHS dentist in the previous 12 months.

This demonstrates good recovery towards the pre pandemic access levels. However there is variation in access at ward level from 32.4% in Oswestry West ward, which includes the most deprived communities in England to over 90% in Ercall ward a less deprived ward.

At 31st March 2019 51% of resident adults had seen a dentist in the previous 2 years.

At 31st March 2022 37% of resident adults had seen a dentist in the previous 2 years.

At 31st March 2023 43% of resident adults had seen a dentist in the previous 2 years.

This demonstrates some recovery post the COVID-19 pandemic. However there are variations in access at ward level from 28% in Oswestry South ward, which includes the most deprived communities in England, to 59% in Ercall ward.

Whilst the current NHS England ambition is to restore activity levels to pre pandemic levels, it is important to be aware that these levels do not necessarily indicate a satisfactory level of NHS dental service access locally. However, using 31st March 2019 data provides an initial benchmark for measuring access to dental services.

Table 1 illustrates access to NHS dental services at 31st March 2023, for children and adults respectively, by ward, based on data provided by the NHS BSA.

For children, the figure represents the percentage of children who had seen a dentist within the previous 12 months (Column C). For adults, the figure represents the percentage of adults who had seen a dentist within the previous 24 months (Column D).

Column G indicates the total number of additional residents who would need to be seen by an NHS dentist to bring the access level in that ward up to the ICB average of 53% (for adults and children) at March 2019 (Column G=Column E + Column F).

Column H indicates the estimated number of additional Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) which would need to be provided to bring the access rate per ward up to the child and adult ICB average 53% (Column H = Column G x3 {average no. of UDAs required per patient})

Shaded rows indicate those wards containing the 20% most deprived areas in the country.

Wards highlighted orange contain 4-6 LSOAs in deciles 1 and 2.

Wards highlighted yellow contain 1-3 LSOAs in deciles 1 and 2.

Table 1: Access to NHS dental services by ward within the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICB area

Ward Name	Patient Local Authority Name	Access rate child March 2023	Access rate adult March 2023	Number of additional children who would need to be seen to bring the access rate per ward up to the 2019 ICB average 61%	Number of additional adults who would need to be seen to bring the access rate per ward up to the 2019 ICB average 51%	Total no. of additional people who would need to be seen to bring the access rate per ward up to the child and adult ICB average 53% (2019)	Estimated no. of additional UDAs which would need to be provided to bring the access rate per ward up to the child and adult ICB average 53% (2019) (based on average of 3 UDAs per patient)
Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H
Oswestry East	Shropshire	44.2	34.9	326	1230	1555	4666
Bridgnorth East and Astley Abbotts	Shropshire	56.3	33.3	46	1040	1086	3259
Bridgnorth West and Tasley	Shropshire	49.1	36.1	162	875	1037	3110
Market Drayton West	Shropshire	65.3	36.4	0	1024	1024	3071
Market Drayton East	Shropshire	53.2	30.6	79	921	1000	3001
Quarry and Coton Hill	Shropshire	47.6	29.9	85	901	986	2957
Oswestry South	Shropshire	44.6	28.2	121	859	980	2941
Oswestry West	Shropshire	34.7	30.1	205	695	900	2700
Madeley & Sutton Hill	Telford & Wrekin	54.2	42.5	160	699	858	2575
The Nedge	Telford & Wrekin	51.7	43.8	228	559	787	2362
Wem	Shropshire	60.5	40.2	8	778	786	2358
St. Oswald	Shropshire	51.3	33.4	88	672	759	2278
Porthill	Shropshire	44.2	36.7	195	533	728	2184
Shifnal South and Cosford	Shropshire	68.5	36.9	0	723	723	2168
Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn	Shropshire	49.4	41.1	172	547	719	2156
Belle Vue	Shropshire	49.3	35.3	95	599	693	2080
Woodside	Telford & Wrekin	49.9	42.9	273	411	684	2053
Ludlow North	Shropshire	50.3	32.4	43	630	673	2019
Bowbrook	Shropshire	51.2	35.7	75	575	650	1949
Hodnet	Shropshire	50.1	37.4	83	560	643	1928
Brown Cleve	Shropshire	50.6	34.6	72	556	628	1885
The Meres	Shropshire	50.5	38.6	104	507	612	1835
Llanymynech	Shropshire	58.8	34.7	16	591	607	1820
Ludlow East	Shropshire	40.1	37.4	155	449	605	1815

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Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H
Highley	Shropshire	47.3	34.7	96	498	594	1782
Cheswardine	Shropshire	55.6	35.9	51	530	581	1742
Alveley and Claverley	Shropshire	54.8	35.6	41	539	580	1740
Ludlow South	Shropshire	44.5	38.1	123	449	572	1716
Ellesmere Urban	Shropshire	54.3	36.7	58	492	550	1649
St. Martin's	Shropshire	55.2	37.3	48	498	546	1639
Worfield	Shropshire	55.8	34.3	30	502	532	1596
Burnell	Shropshire	38.0	44.0	256	274	530	1591
Shawbury	Shropshire	59.7	38.5	13	506	519	1557
Dawley & Aqueduct	Telford & Wrekin	60.5	44.3	9	503	512	1535
Clee	Shropshire	54.8	39.0	47	452	499	1498
College	Telford & Wrekin	46.2	37.6	114	385	499	1497
Ruyton and Baschurch	Shropshire	51.9	40.0	85	381	466	1398
Underdale	Shropshire	45.3	42.8	167	281	448	1344
Meole	Shropshire	51.2	41.6	98	333	431	1293
Shifnal North	Shropshire	76.5	41.6	0	430	430	1290
Loton	Shropshire	52.8	40.2	70	359	429	1288
Castlefields and Ditherington	Shropshire	46.6	43.4	135	285	421	1262
Whitchurch South	Shropshire	52.3	41.5	72	346	417	1252
Haygate	Telford & Wrekin	54.1	39.4	61	354	415	1244
Copthorne	Shropshire	58.1	39.5	28	386	414	1241
Whittington	Shropshire	51.4	41.4	84	321	405	1215
Broseley	Shropshire	63.9	41.4	0	394	394	1182
Tern	Shropshire	62.8	41.3	0	386	386	1157
Edgmond & Ercall Magna	Telford & Wrekin	67.7	44.2	0	376	376	1128

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Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H
Abbey	Shropshire	60.6	40.9	2	369	372	1115
Malinslee & Dawley Bank	Telford & Wrekin	59.5	44.5	26	325	352	1055
Donnington	Telford & Wrekin	54.7	46.5	106	242	348	1044
Clun	Shropshire	44.4	43.9	111	236	347	1040
Brookside	Telford & Wrekin	52.3	47.1	163	183	345	1036
Prees	Shropshire	59.9	42.2	8	336	344	1032
Harlescott	Shropshire	53.2	44.7	91	242	334	1002
Cleobury Mortimer	Shropshire	62.4	46.5	0	286	286	858
Whitchurch North	Shropshire	55.9	47.6	75	211	286	857
Severn Valley	Shropshire	63.1	43.3	0	279	279	838
Corvedale	Shropshire	56.6	43.1	25	246	271	812
Battlefield	Shropshire	55.3	45.7	61	204	265	796
Hadley & Leegomery	Telford & Wrekin	59.3	48.7	45	181	226	678
Radbrook	Shropshire	73.7	45.2	0	225	225	674
Chirbury and Worthen	Shropshire	54.0	44.3	34	172	205	615
Much Wenlock	Shropshire	72.4	45.5	0	186	186	557
Monkmoor	Shropshire	53.3	48.1	78	101	179	537
Ironbridge Gorge	Telford & Wrekin	66.1	43.8	0	174	174	521
Longden	Shropshire	66.2	46.0	0	168	168	504
Rea Valley	Shropshire	56.8	47.5	37	128	165	495
Church Stretton and Craven Arms	Shropshire	50.8	53.0	145	0	145	434
St. Georges	Telford & Wrekin	71.8	48.5	0	118	118	354
Oakengates & Ketley Bank	Telford & Wrekin	62.1	49.5	0	108	108	323
Shawburch	Telford & Wrekin	59.5	47.9	9	73	83	248

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Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H
Muxton	Telford & Wrekin	57.3	51.9	65	0	65	196
Church Aston & Lilleshall	Telford & Wrekin	51.1	51.5	65	0	65	194
Sundorne	Shropshire	55.3	51.1	61	0	61	184
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	Telford & Wrekin	58.5	50.5	30	22	53	158
Apley Castle	Telford & Wrekin	62.1	49.3	0	46	46	139
Newport North & West	Telford & Wrekin	58.1	53.0	40	0	40	121
Albrighton	Shropshire	56.9	53.8	33	0	33	100
Priorslee	Telford & Wrekin	73.6	50.5	0	29	29	87
Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	57.0	54.4	25	0	25	76
Bagley	Shropshire	58.0	51.7	24	0	24	71
Arleston	Telford & Wrekin	59.6	51.6	16	0	16	47
Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	Shropshire	76.0	50.9	0	8	8	23
Dothill	Telford & Wrekin	65.7	51.8	0	0	0	0
Ketley & Overdale	Telford & Wrekin	71.3	53.0	0	0	0	0
Admaston & Bratton	Telford & Wrekin	67.4	53.0	0	0	0	0
Wrockwardine	Telford & Wrekin	74.6	53.8	0	0	0	0
Newport South & East	Telford & Wrekin	68.1	54.2	0	0	0	0
Park	Telford & Wrekin	67.2	54.7	0	0	0	0
Horsehay & Lightmoor	Telford & Wrekin	87.1	58.7	0	0	0	0
Ercall	Telford & Wrekin	106.1	58.7	0	0	0	0

Insights gained from the public

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Shropshire reported in November 2023 that access to dental services across the county remained a concern with a higher number of contacts from the Shrewsbury, Oswestry and NE part of the county. This resonates with the dental service access data.

Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin did not report any specific data re dental access, but concerns are expressed generally that it is not possible to 'register' with an NHS dentist locally.

Call to the local Dental Advice Line

The community dental service of Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, is commissioned to provide a Dental Advice Line in order to signpost local residents to an appropriate dental provider as well as providing advice re self-care. The advice line has been operational June 2022. Whilst the extent to which the Dental Advice Line is known across the ICB area may not be uniform, it can provide intelligence to triangulate with the dental access rates identified in Table 1, as it demonstrates an expressed need for routine or urgent dental care or dental advice.

Analysis of the calls by ward of residence of caller for the 12 month period ending December 31st 2023 shows a range from 0.1% of the population from Cleobury Mortimer ward calling the Dental Advice Line to 5.6% of the population from Woodside ward. Overall, the highest proportion of calls come from those areas with the lowest access to NHS dental services, as illustrated in Table 1. In addition, 11 of the 'top' 15 wards include the most deprived areas (IMD 1 and 2).

Table 2: Extract from the Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Dental Advice Line call data

Ward Name	2223 Q4	2324 Q1	2324 Q2	2324 Q3	Total	%age of resident population calling Dental Advice Line over 12 months to 31 December 2023
Woodside	109	123	100	92	424	5.6
Harlescott	63	54	51	57	225	4.5
Quarry and Coton Hill	70	57	42	41	210	4.3
Oswestry West	60	38	39	34	171	4.2
Oswestry East	95	83	110	80	368	3.8
Castlefields & Ditherington	31	47	49	52	179	3.8
Arleston	33	38	44	19	134	3.7
Monkmoor	37	40	48	38	163	3.6
Oswestry South	30	43	37	39	149	3.3
Sundorne	39	34	33	35	141	3.3
Malinslee & Dawley Bank	57	54	50	44	205	3.0
Bowbrook	38	34	32	29	133	2.9
Madeley & Sutton Hill	85	65	84	68	302	2.8
Rea Valley	37	41	28	22	128	2.8
Haygate	25	22	39	25	111	2.8

Source Shropshire Community NHS Trust

Population changes

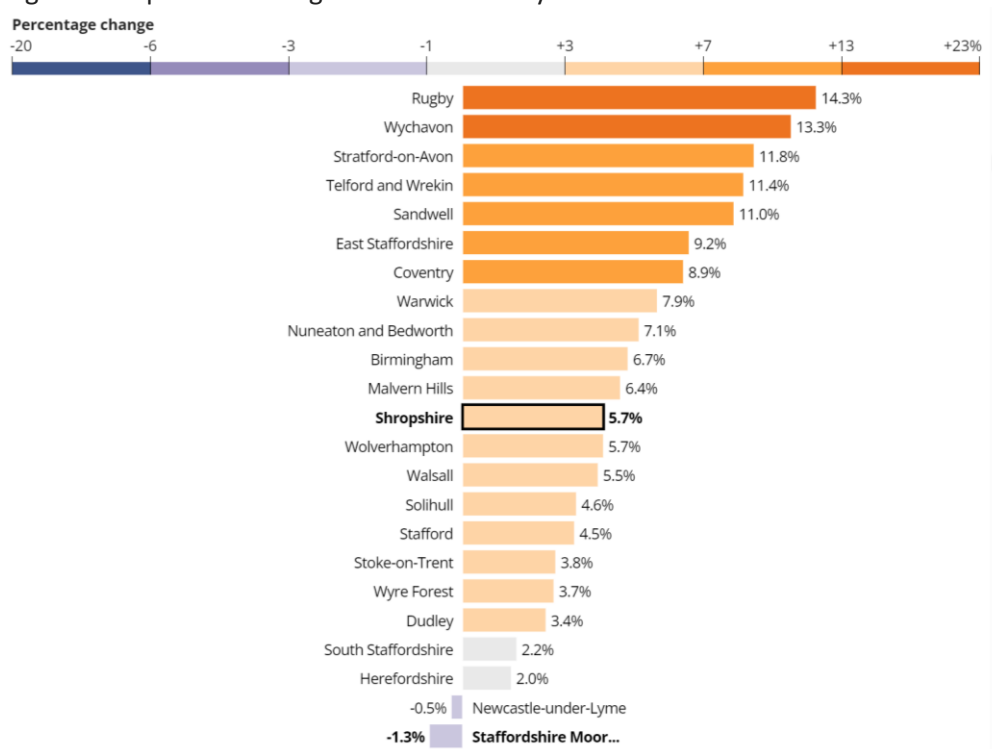
This section provides a high level summary of the changes to the population in England and locally between 2011 and 2021, and should be taken into account when making commissioning decisions.

Between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses the population of England grew by 6.6% to 56.5 million people.

Between 2011 and 2021, the population of Shropshire increased by 5.7% to 324 000.

Between 2011 and 2021, the population of Telford & Wrekin increased by 11.4% to 167 000

Figure 3: Population change of local authority areas in the West Midlands between 2011 and 2021



[Shropshire population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)

Overall, in England, there has been:

- an increase of 20.1% in people aged 65 years and over,
- an increase of 3.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and
- an increase of 5.0% in children aged under 15 years.

In Telford and Wrekin there has been:

- an increase of 35.7% in people aged 65 years and over,
- an increase of 7.0% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and
- an increase of 8.3% in children aged under 15 years.

In Shropshire there has been:

- an increase of 29.5% in people aged 65 years and over,
- an increase of 0.1% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and
- a decrease of 2.5% in children aged under 15 years.

The population of England continues to age with more people than ever aged 65 years and older. The increases in this age group across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin are even higher.

Housing developments

All local authorities have a local development plan with an overall target for housing development to meet the increased demands for homes due to population growth and changes in our social structure. The plans include recently completed developments, those in development and those to be developed in the future.

The local plans should be taken into account by dental service commissioners when considering priorities for investment as they provide insights in regard to the location of population growth within the ICB area.

Housing Development in Telford and Wrekin

(with thanks to the Insight Team at Telford & Wrekin Council for the following information)

Currently there are several significant housing developments under construction in the borough, with a number of properties already completed. Once fully completed the most sizeable developments will have added circa 1,150 new homes (approx. 2,750 people*) to the eastern urban fringe of the borough (Muxton and Priorslee Wards), 375 new homes (approx. 900 people) on the northern urban fringe (Apley Ward), 500 homes (approx. 1,200 people) in Newport and 270 homes (approx. 650 people) to the rural western area (Wrockwardine Ward).

Consultation is currently underway on the Telford and Wrekin draft local plan to 2040. This plan includes provision for the delivery of 20,200 homes between 2020 and 2040. This equates to an increase in population of approximately 48,500 people. Of these new homes, around 55% have already been completed, are under construction (as per the previous paragraph) or have planning permission, meaning that the Council is planning on a further 8,800 net new homes up to 2040.

Development in Telford urban area

Within the Telford urban area, a total of 17,400 homes (approx. 41,750 people) are planned for this part of the borough between 2020 and 2040. This includes 9,450 homes already consented or part the small sites allowance. The majority of the housing growth is planned to be on the edge of the existing urban area with sizeable developments on the edge of Ercall, Lawley and Horsehay & Lightmoor Wards.

There is less development planned in the urban centre and south of the borough where the bulk of the borough's 18 Core 20 LSOAs are located, therefore future population growth in these areas of greatest deprivation is likely to be lower than in those areas on the fringe of the urban area.

The most significant proposals for the urban area in the plan are for 3 Sustainable Urban Extension Sites (detailed in Table 2). If these developments proceed as planned this could result in 7,900 dwellings and approximately 19,000 people on the northern edge of the current urban area.

*Based on an occupancy of 2.4 people per dwelling rounded to the nearest 50.

Table 2

Sustainable Urban Extension	Wards	Approx. number of dwellings	Approx. number of people
Land North of A442 Wheat Leasows	Apley Castle, Ercall Magna	3,100	7,450
Land North East of Muxton	Church Aston & Lilleshall, Donnington, Muxton	2,700	6,500
Bratton & Shawburch	Admaston & Bratton, Shawburch & Dothill	2,100	5,050

Development in rural areas

The draft local plan includes planning for around 1,200 new homes (approx. 2,900 people) in the rural area of the borough of which around 800 have already been completed or have planning permission.

The most significant growth under this plan is within Wrockwardine Ward on the west of the borough with 780 homes (approx. 1,850 people) and a further 360 (approx. 850 people) in the east in Edgmond Ward.

Development in Newport

Over the course of the plan period the Council are planning for around 1,600 new homes (approx. 3,850 people) in Newport, of which around 1,000 homes have already been completed or have planning permission.

Details of proposed site allocations can be viewed on the Local Plan interactive map at the following link. <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=809829a12c194bd1947cd4fd0fda1a>

Housing Development in Shropshire

(with thanks to the Planning Policy Team at Shropshire Council for the following information)

The draft Shropshire Local Plan has proposed a housing requirement across Shropshire of some 30,800 dwellings between 2016/17 to 2037/38. The draft Shropshire Local Plan is available to view on the Council website at: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/21100/sd002-draft-shropshire-local-plan.pdf>

Within the draft Shropshire Local Plan, Shrewsbury is proposed to be identified as a 'strategic' centre and a **focus for development**. Specifically it is proposed that between 2016/17 and 2037/38 some **8,625 dwellings** will be built.

The other larger settlements in Shropshire are proposed to be identified as **Principal and Key Centres**, where **significant levels of growth** will occur.

The draft Shropshire Local Plan also proposes two new **Strategic Settlements**. These are:

- The Former Ironbridge Power Station, where **1,000 dwellings** will occur over the period to 2038 (planning permission now granted).
- Clive Barracks, Tern Hill, where a total of **750 dwellings** are proposed - of which 350 dwellings are expected to be completed by 2038.

Rural Areas

Recognising the rurality of much of Shropshire and the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural communities, growth in urban areas will be complemented by appropriate new development within **Community Hubs** (significant rural service centres), and to a lesser extent **Community Clusters** (settlements with aspirations to enhance sustainability).

Table 3 summarises the location of proposed settlements across Shropshire 2016-2038 which illustrates the variation across the County.

Table 3: Summary table of the location of proposed settlements across Shropshire

Broad Location	Settlement Area	Strategic Centre	Principal & Key Centres	Strategic Settlements	Community Hubs	Estimated total additional population - based on 2.4 persons per dwelling
North	Whitchurch		1600			3840
	Whitchurch rural		170			408
	Market Drayton		1200			2880
	Market Drayton rural				344	826
	Wem		600			1440
	Wem rural				305	732
	Clive Barracks			350		840
					Total for area	10966
North West	Ellesmere		800		60	2064
	Oswestry		1900			4560
	Oswestry rural				1326	3182
					Total for area	9806
	Shrewsbury	8625				20700
	Shrewsbury rural				1280	3072
					Total for area	23772
Central	Minsterley and Pontsbury rural					Total for area 330
East	Albrighton		500			1200
	Shifnal		1500			3600
	Broseley		250			600
	Bridgnorth		1800			4320
	Bridgnorth rural				195	468
	Much Wenlock		200			480
	Much Wenlock rural				80	192
	Highley		250			600
	Ironbridge			1000		2400
					Total for area	13860
South/South East	Cleobury Mortimer		200			480
	Ludlow		1000			2400
	Ludlow rural				265	636
					Total for area	3516
South West	Craven Arms		500			1200
	Bishops Castle		150			360
	Bishops Castle rural				305	732
	Church Stretton		200			480
					Total for area	2772

The location of proposed allocations for all settlements across Shropshire is illustrated on the interactive policies map, available at:

<https://shropshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9a700832bbf04b1db2179445e624c198>

Recommendations for future dental service commissioning

The Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICB geography includes some large towns as well as several market towns of varying sizes. These market towns provide a focus for rural communities to access a range of services, so it is important to ensure access to NHS dental services particularly in the larger market towns. Wherever possible NHS dental services should also be sustained in the smaller market towns.

Given the NHS commitment to reducing inequalities, initial priority should be given to improving access to NHS dental services for the residents of those wards containing the poorest areas, with the lowest dental access rates.

The proposed Priority Areas based on the dental attendance data at March 31st 2023 provided by the NHS BSA and ward deprivation levels are as follows:

Priority Area 1: Telford

This area includes the wards with the most deprived areas as well as wards in close geographical proximity which are also deprived. The numbers in parentheses indicate the location of the ward on the map in Appendix 1.

Madeley and Sutton Hill (17)
 Woodside (28),
 Dawley and Aqueduct (7),
 Malinslee and Dawley Bank (18),
 Brookside (4),
 The Nedge (27)

Priority Area 2: Market Drayton West & East wards

Priority Area 3: Oswestry South & Oswestry West wards

Priority Area 4: Ludlow East ward

Priority Area 5: Telford: College (6), Haygate (13), Hadley and Leegomery (12) wards

Priority Area 6: Telford: Donnington (8), St Georges (26), Oakengates and Ketley Bank (22), Wrockardine Wood and Trench (30) wards

Priority Area 7: Shrewsbury

Castlefields and Ditherington, Harlescott, Monkmoor and Sundorne wards

As the latest dental service activity data is currently only available to March 31st 2023, it is important to consider the impact of any changes to dental service delivery which have taken place since then which may affect this initial prioritisation.

Given the fact that there is no catchment area for dentistry and the need to provide access for the whole population, it is important to consider how to ensure that those most in need of services are able to access them, and that the service model suits their needs.

The following needs to be considered to support the final identification of priority areas for this iteration of the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Dental Service Equity Audit:

NHS dental activity handbacks:

A number of dental service providers have handed back NHS dental activity in recent months and the impact of this needs to be factored into the prioritisation process. In addition, the NHS dental commissioning team has procured a new dental practice in Oswestry and the impact of this on access in that area should be factored in.

NHS dental contract under delivery:

Some dental contracts are under delivering against their contracted NHS activity for a variety of reasons. Current levels of NHS dental service delivery and practices' plans to improve delivery should be taken into account. If this activity were delivered it would improve access rates without additional funding in that area.

Securing access for the local population:

The public is able to access primary care dental services anywhere in England – there is no catchment as per GP practices. With the increasing challenges in accessing NHS dental services it is being reported, anecdotally, that some sections of the population are now prepared to travel longer distances to access NHS dental treatment, which may displace the local population. It is therefore important to work with local partners and agencies to facilitate dental service access for the intended population rather than those residing many miles away. There may also be a need to engage with neighbouring ICBs when a population would naturally focus on a nearby area for services which are outside their resident ICB area – e.g. residents of Church Stretton may choose to access services in nearby Kidderminster (Hereford and Worcestershire ICB area) given that this is the nearest town.

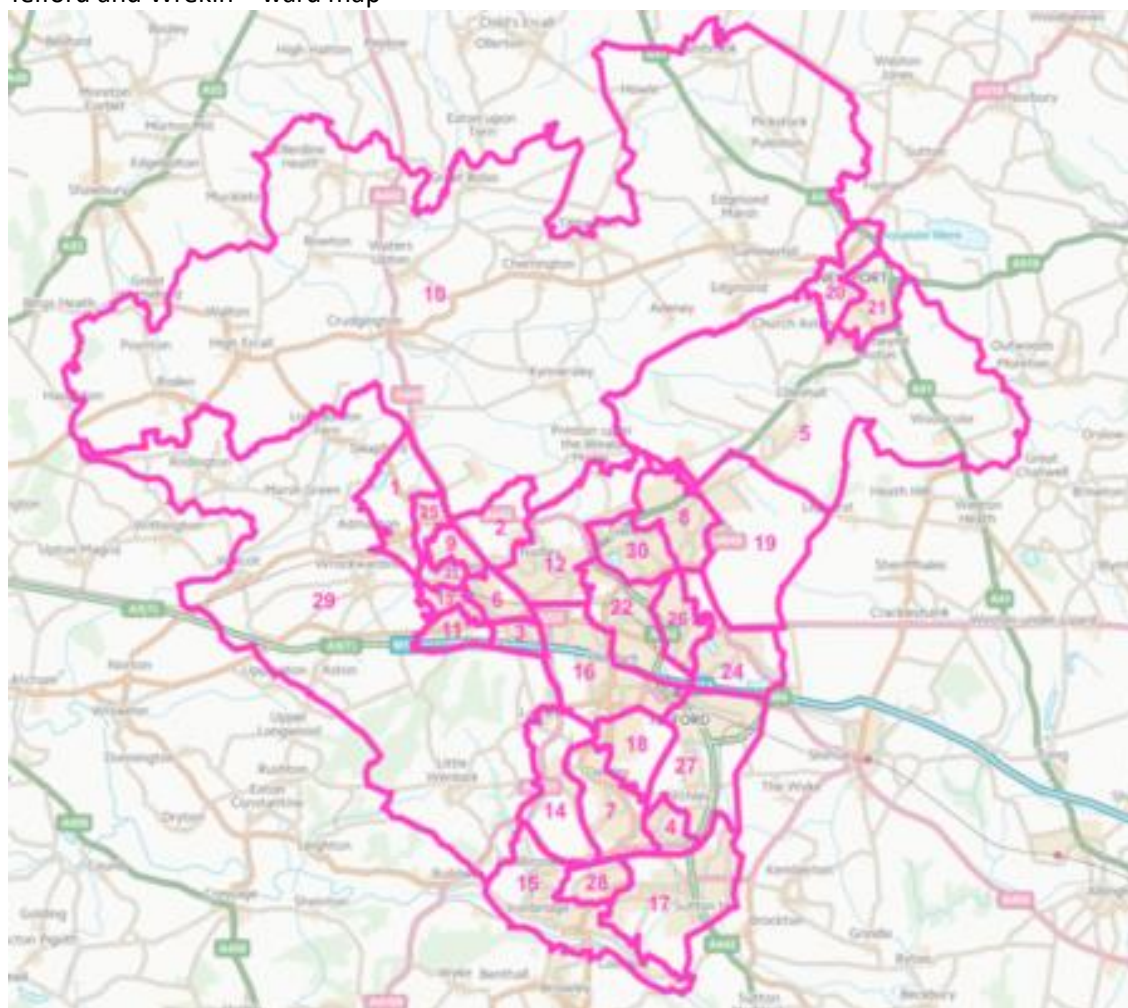
Commissioning dental services suitable for the local population

In order to provide access to dental services for the whole population it is important that commissioned services are people-centred, providing care that responds to individual preferences, needs and values. This may necessitate different models of care. Commissioners should work with the local population and advocacy groups to co-design and co-produce solutions to ensure acceptable care for all.

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Appendix 1

Telford and Wrekin – ward map



Key to map

1 - Admaston and Bratton	16 - Ketley and Overdale
2 - Apley Castle	17 - Madeley and Sutton Hill
3 - Arleston	18 - Malinslee & Dawley Bank
4 - Brookside	19 - Muxton
5 - Church Aston and Lilleshall	20 - Newport North and West
6 - College	21 - Newport South and East
7 - Dawley and Aqueduct	22 - Oakengates and Ketley Bank
8 - Donnington	23 - Park
9 - Dothill	24 - Priorslee
10 - Edmond and Ercall Magna	25 - Shawburch
11 - Ercall	26 - St Georges
12 - Hadley and Leegomery	27 - The Nedge
13 - Haygate	28 - Woodside
14 - Horsehay and Lightmoor	29 - Wrockwardine
15 - Ironbridge Gorge	30 - Wrockwardine Wood and Trench