

# Dental Smiles Chelmsford Partnership

# Dental Smiles Chelmsford

## Inspection Report

**87 Rectory Lane  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1RF**

**Tel: 01245251198**

**Website: [www.dentalsmileschelmsford.co.uk](http://www.dentalsmileschelmsford.co.uk)**

**Date of inspection visit: 7 August 2018**

**Date of publication: 30/08/2018**

## Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 7 August 2018 under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. We planned the inspection to check whether the registered provider was meeting the legal requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations. The inspection was led by a CQC inspector who was supported by a specialist dental adviser.

To get to the heart of patients' experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following five questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

These questions form the framework for the areas we look at during the inspection.

### **Our findings were:**

#### **Are services safe?**

We found that this practice was providing safe care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

#### **Are services effective?**

We found that this practice was providing effective care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

#### **Are services caring?**

We found that this practice was providing caring services in accordance with the relevant regulations.

#### **Are services responsive?**

We found that this practice was providing responsive care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

#### **Are services well-led?**

We found that this practice was providing well-led care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

### **Background**

Dental Smiles Chelmsford is located in Chelmsford and provides NHS treatment to adults and children.

There is a ramp access for people who use wheelchairs and those with pushchairs. Car parking spaces, including those for blue badge holders, are available in local car parks near the practice. The practice provides a bike rack at the front of the building and is located on a main bus route in the town.

The dental team includes six dentists, seven dental nurses, three dental hygienists, one receptionist and the practice manager. The practice has four treatment rooms.

The practice is owned by a company and as a condition of registration must have a person registered with the Care Quality Commission as the registered manager. Registered managers have legal responsibility for meeting

# Summary of findings

the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations about how the practice is run. The registered manager at Dental Smiles Chelmsford is the practice manager.

On the day of inspection, we collected 18 CQC comment cards filled in by patients and spoke with three other patients.

During the inspection we spoke with two dentists, two dental nurses, one receptionist and the practice manager. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open:

Monday from 8.30am to 7pm.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8am to 5.30pm.

Friday from 8.30am to 7pm.

## Our key findings were:

- The practice appeared clean and well maintained.
- The practice staff had infection control procedures which reflected published guidance.
- Staff knew how to deal with emergencies. Appropriate emergency equipment and medicines were mostly available as described in recognised guidance. Some items were missing including airways and tubing, not all sizes of clear face masks were available and there was no paediatric ambubag. We noted that fridge temperature where Glucagon was stored were not logged or monitored. During the inspection, the practice confirmed these items were ordered.
- The practice had systems to help them manage risk.

- The practice staff had suitable safeguarding processes and staff knew their responsibilities for safeguarding adults and children.
- The practice had thorough staff recruitment procedures.
- The clinical staff provided patients' care and treatment in line with current guidelines.
- Staff treated patients with dignity and respect and took care to protect their privacy and personal information.
- The practice was providing preventive care and supporting patients to ensure better oral health.
- The appointment system met patients' needs. Appointments were available until 7pm on Mondays and Fridays.
- The practice had effective leadership and culture of continuous improvement.
- Staff felt involved and supported and worked well as a team.
- Feedback from patients was wholly positive.
- The practice staff dealt with complaints positively and efficiently.
- The practice staff had suitable information governance arrangements.

There were areas where the provider could make improvements. They should:

- Review the availability of equipment and medicines in the practice to manage medical emergencies taking into account the guidelines issued by the Resuscitation Council (UK) and the General Dental Council.

# Summary of findings

## The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

### Are services safe?

We found that this practice was providing safe care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The practice had systems and processes to provide safe care and treatment. They used learning from incidents and complaints to help them improve.

Staff received training in safeguarding and knew how to recognise the signs of abuse and how to report concerns.

Staff were qualified for their roles and the practice completed essential recruitment checks.

Premises and equipment were clean and properly maintained. The practice followed national guidance for cleaning, sterilising and storing dental instruments.

The practice had suitable arrangements for dealing with medical and other emergencies.

No action



### Are services effective?

We found that this practice was providing effective care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The dentists assessed patients' needs and provided care and treatment in line with recognised guidance. Patients described the treatment they received as professional and extremely good. The dentists discussed treatment with patients so they could give informed consent and recorded this in their records.

The practice had clear arrangements when patients needed to be referred to other dental or health care professionals.

The practice supported staff to complete training relevant to their roles and had systems to help them monitor this.

No action



### Are services caring?

We found that this practice was providing caring services in accordance with the relevant regulations.

We received feedback about the practice from 21 people. Patients were positive about all aspects of the service the practice provided. They told us staff were kind, professional and compassionate.

They said that they were given helpful, honest explanations about dental treatment, and said their dentist listened to them. Patients commented that they made them feel at ease, especially when they were anxious about visiting the dentist.

We saw that staff protected patients' privacy and were aware of the importance of confidentiality. Patients said staff treated them with dignity and respect.

No action



### Are services responsive to people's needs?

We found that this practice was providing responsive care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

No action



# Summary of findings

The practice's appointment system was efficient and met patients' needs. Appointments were available until 7pm on Monday and Friday. Patients could get an appointment quickly if in pain.

Staff considered patients' different needs. This included providing facilities for disabled patients and families with children. The practice had access to telephone interpreter services. Not all staff were aware of this, although we were told there had been no demand for this service at the practice.

The practice took patients views seriously. They valued compliments from patients and responded to concerns and complaints quickly and constructively.

## Are services well-led?

We found that this practice was providing well-led care in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The practice had arrangements to ensure the smooth running of the service. These included systems for the practice team to discuss the quality and safety of the care and treatment provided. There was a clearly defined management structure and staff felt supported and appreciated.

The practice team kept complete patient dental care records which were, clearly written or typed and stored securely.

The practice monitored clinical and non-clinical areas of their work to help them improve and learn. This included listening to the views of patients and staff.

No action



# Are services safe?

## Our findings

### **Safety systems and processes (including staff recruitment, Equipment & premises and Radiography (X-rays))**

The practice had clear systems to keep patients safe.

Staff knew their responsibilities if they had concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults who were vulnerable due to their circumstances. The practice had safeguarding policies and procedures to provide staff with information about identifying, reporting and dealing with suspected abuse. We saw evidence that staff received safeguarding training. Staff knew about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and how to report concerns, including notification to the CQC.

The practice manager understood the formal reporting pathways required following serious untoward incidents as detailed in the Reporting of Injuries Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR).

There was a system to highlight vulnerable patients on records e.g. children with child protection plans, adults where there were safeguarding concerns, people with a learning disability or a mental health condition, or who require other support such as with mobility or communication.

The practice had a whistleblowing policy. Staff told us they felt confident they could raise concerns without fear of retribution.

The dentists used rubber dams in line with guidance from the British Endodontic Society when providing root canal treatment. In instances where the rubber dam was not used, such as for example refusal by the patient, and where other methods were used to protect the airway, this was suitably documented in the dental care record and a risk assessment completed.

The practice had a business continuity plan describing how the practice would deal with events that could disrupt the normal running of the practice.

The practice had a staff recruitment policy and procedure to help them employ suitable staff and had checks in place for agency and locum staff. These reflected the relevant legislation. We looked at eight staff recruitment records. These showed the practice followed their recruitment procedure.

We noted that clinical staff were qualified and registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) and had professional indemnity cover.

The practice ensured that facilities and equipment were safe and that equipment was maintained according to manufacturers' instructions. The practice had not had a five-year fixed electrical wire test undertaken at practice. Following the inspection, the provider sent confirmation that fixed wire testing had been scheduled.

Records showed that fire detection equipment, such as smoke detectors were regularly tested and firefighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, were regularly serviced. There was not any oxygen signage in the practice to alert visitors to the practice that oxygen was stored there.

The practice had suitable arrangements to ensure the safety of the X-ray equipment. They met current radiation regulations and had the required information in their radiation protection file.

We saw evidence that the dentists justified, graded and reported on the radiographs they took. The practice carried out radiography audits following current guidance and legislation.

Clinical staff completed continuing professional development (CPD) in respect of dental radiography.

### **Risks to patients**

There were systems to assess, monitor and manage risks to patient safety.

The practice's health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessments were up to date and reviewed regularly to help manage potential risk. The practice had current employer's liability insurance.

We looked at the practice's arrangements for safe dental care and treatment. The staff followed relevant safety regulation when using needles and other sharp dental items. A sharps risk assessment had been undertaken and was updated annually.

The provider had a system in place to ensure clinical staff had received appropriate vaccinations, including the vaccination to protect them against the Hepatitis B virus, and that the effectiveness of the vaccination was checked.

Staff knew how to respond to a medical emergency and completed training in emergency resuscitation and basic life support (BLS) every year.

# Are services safe?

Emergency equipment and medicines were mostly available as described in recognised guidance. Some items were missing including airways and tubing, not all sizes of clear face masks were available, and there was no paediatric ambubag. We noted that fridge temperature where Glucagon was stored were not logged or monitored. The practice could not ensure that the fridge temperature had exceeded the recommended normal range during hot weather. We noted the Glucagon expiry date had not been adjusted to allow for any temperature variation. We discussed these issues with the dentist and received confirmation during the inspection that the items were immediately replaced and action was taken to replace and improve the storage of Glucagon. We noted on the minutes of staff meetings that medical emergency scenarios were discussed during practice meetings.

Staff were undertaking checks of the equipment and medicines each month: national guidance states these should be undertaken weekly.

A dental nurse worked with the dentists when they treated patients in line with GDC Standards for the Dental Team. We were told additional nursing staff were always available should the hygienist request chair side support. The practice had not undertaken a risk assessment for when the dental hygienist worked without chairside support. Following the inspection, the provider confirmed this would be reviewed.

The provider had some information to minimise the risk that can be caused from substances that are hazardous to health. There was scope to ensure the practice undertook suitable risk assessments to minimise these risks.

The practice had an infection prevention and control policy and procedures. They followed guidance in The Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in primary care dental practices (HTM01-05) published by the Department of Health and Social Care. Staff completed infection prevention and control training and received updates as required.

The practice mostly had suitable arrangements for transporting, cleaning, checking, sterilising and storing instruments in line with HTM01-05. We noted that the air flow in the decontamination room was flowing in the wrong direction from the dirty area to the clean area with the potential to contaminate clean areas in the cleaning process and there was no water thermometer available.

The practice did not ensure that where cleaning agents were diluted with water, both the water and the agent were measured correctly to ensure effective cleaning processes. We discussed these issues with the practice team who confirmed they would review these processes. The practice team also confirmed they were in the process of planning the redevelopment of the decontamination room. We noted that sharps bins in treatment rooms were not dated and the practice were not aware that bins should be replaced every three months. We discussed these issues with the practice team who confirmed they would review their processes.

The records showed equipment used by staff for cleaning and sterilising instruments were validated, maintained and used in line with the manufacturers' guidance.

The practice had in place systems and protocols to ensure that any dental laboratory work was disinfected prior to being sent to a dental laboratory and before the dental laboratory work was fitted in a patient's mouth.

The practice had procedures to reduce the possibility of Legionella or other bacteria developing in the water systems, in line with a risk assessment. All recommendations had been actioned and records of water testing and dental unit water line management were in place.

We saw cleaning schedules for the premises. The practice was clean when we inspected and patients confirmed that this was usual.

The practice had policies and procedures in place to ensure clinical waste was segregated and stored appropriately in line with guidance.

The practice carried out infection prevention and control audits twice a year. The latest audit showed the practice was meeting the required standards.

## Information to deliver safe care and treatment

Staff had the information they needed to deliver safe care and treatment to patients.

We discussed with the dentist how information to deliver safe care and treatment was handled and recorded. We looked at a sample of dental care records to confirm our findings and noted that individual records were written and

# Are services safe?

managed in a way that kept patients safe. Dental care records we saw were accurate, complete, and legible and were kept securely and complied with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) protection requirements.

Patient referrals to other service providers contained specific information which allowed appropriate and timely referrals in line with practice protocols and current guidance.

## **Safe and appropriate use of medicines**

The practice stored and kept records of NHS prescriptions as described in current guidance although we found some processes required strengthening.

We found there was no system in place to monitor and track individual prescriptions to quickly identify their loss or theft. We discussed these issues with the practice team and received assurance during the inspection that action would be immediately taken to rectify these issues.

The dentists were aware of current guidance about prescribing medicines.

## **Track record on safety**

The practice had a good safety record.

There were comprehensive risk assessments in relation to safety issues. The practice monitored and reviewed incidents. This helped it to understand risks and gave a clear, accurate and current picture that led to safety improvements.

We noted that some incidents we looked at were investigated, documented and discussed with the rest of the dental practice team.

## **Lessons learned and improvements**

The practice learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

The staff we spoke with were aware of the Serious Incident Framework and never events and recorded, responded to and discussed all incidents to reduce risk and support future learning in line with the framework.

There were adequate systems for reviewing and investigating when things went wrong. The practice learned and shared lessons identified themes and took action to improve safety in the practice.

There was a system for receiving and acting on safety alerts. The practice learned from external safety events as well as patient and medicine safety alerts.

# Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

## Our findings

### Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

The practice had systems to keep dental practitioners up to date with current evidence-based practice. We saw that clinicians assessed needs and delivered care and treatment in line with current legislation, standards and guidance supported by clear clinical pathways and protocols.

### Helping patients to live healthier lives

The practice was providing preventive care and supporting patients to ensure better oral health in line with the Delivering Better Oral Health toolkit.

The dentists told us they prescribed high concentration fluoride toothpaste if a patient's risk of tooth decay indicated this would help them. They used fluoride varnish for children based on an assessment of the risk of tooth decay.

The dentists told us that where applicable they discussed smoking, alcohol consumption and diet with patients during appointments. The practice had a selection of dental products for sale and provided health promotion leaflets to help patients with their oral health.

The practice was aware of national oral health campaigns and local schemes available in supporting patients to live healthier lives. For example, local stop smoking services. They directed patients to these schemes when necessary.

The dentist described to us the procedures they used to improve the outcome of periodontal treatment. This involved preventative advice, taking plaque and gum bleeding scores and detailed charts of the patient's gum condition

Patients with more severe gum disease were recalled at more frequent intervals to review their compliance and to reinforce home care preventative advice.

### Consent to care and treatment

The practice obtained consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

The practice team understood the importance of obtaining and recording patients' consent to treatment. The dentists told us they gave patients information about treatment

options and the risks and benefits of these so they could make informed decisions. Patients confirmed their dentist listened to them and gave them clear information about their treatment.

The practice's consent policy included information about the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The team understood their responsibilities under the act when treating adults who may not be able to make informed decisions. The policy also referred to Gillick competence, by which a child under the age of 16 years of age can consent for themselves. The staff were aware of the need to consider this when treating young people under 16 years of age. The practice had processes in place to establish and confirm parental/legal responsibility when seeking consent for children and young people.

Staff described how they involved patients' relatives or carers when appropriate and made sure they had enough time to explain treatment options clearly.

### Monitoring care and treatment

The practice kept detailed dental care records containing information about the patients' current dental needs, past treatment and medical histories. The dentists assessed patients' treatment needs in line with recognised guidance.

There was a lack of audits of patients' dental care records and peer review at the practice to ensure that the dentists recorded the necessary information. We discussed this with the practice team who confirmed action would be taken in future to improve this.

### Effective staffing

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their roles.

Staff new to the practice had a period of induction based on a structured induction programme. We confirmed clinical staff completed the continuing professional development required for their registration with the General Dental Council.

Staff told us they discussed training needs at annual appraisals. We saw evidence of completed appraisals and how the practice addressed the training requirements of staff.

### Co-ordinating care and treatment

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to deliver effective care and treatment.

# Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Dentists confirmed they referred patients to a range of specialists in primary and secondary care if they needed treatment the practice did not provide.

The practice had systems and processes to identify, manage, follow up and where required refer patients for specialist care when presenting with bacterial infections.

The practice also had systems and processes for referring patients with suspected oral cancer under the national two week wait arrangements. This was initiated by NICE in 2005 to help make sure patients were seen quickly by a specialist.

The practice monitored all referrals to make sure they were dealt with promptly.

# Are services caring?

## Our findings

### Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

Staff were aware of their responsibility to respect people's diversity and human rights.

Patients commented positively that staff were courteous, caring and easy to talk to. We saw that staff treated patients respectfully, with kindness and compassion and were friendly towards patients at the reception desk and over the telephone.

Patients said staff were compassionate and understanding and they told us they could choose whether they saw a male or female dentist.

Patients told us staff were kind and helpful when they were in pain, distress or discomfort.

### Privacy and dignity

The practice respected and promoted patients' privacy and dignity.

Staff were aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. The layout of reception and waiting areas provided some privacy when reception staff were dealing with patients. Staff told us that if a patient asked for more privacy they would take them into another room. We noted that some computer screens on the reception desk were visible to patients in the waiting room. We discussed this with the practice who confirmed they would review the position of one computer screen. Staff did not leave patients' personal information where other patients might see it.

Staff password protected patients' electronic care records and backed these up to secure storage. They stored paper records securely.

### Involving people in decisions about care and treatment

Staff helped patients be involved in decisions about their care and treatment.

- Interpretation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language. However not all the staff we spoke with were aware of this. We were told there had been no demand for this facility.
- Staff communicated with patients in a way that they could understand
- Staff helped patients and their carers find further information and access community and advocacy services. They helped them ask questions about their care and treatment.

The practice gave patients clear information to help them make informed choices. Patients confirmed that staff listened to them, did not rush them and discussed options for treatment with them. A dentist described the conversations they had with patients to satisfy themselves they understood their treatment options.

The practice's website and information leaflet provided patients with information about the range of treatments available at the practice.

The dentist described to us the methods they used to help patients understand treatment options discussed. These included photographs, models and X-ray images.

# Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

## Our findings

### **Responding to and meeting people's needs**

The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. It took account of patient needs and preferences.

Patients described high levels of satisfaction with the responsive service provided by the practice.

Staff were clear on the importance of emotional support needed by patients when delivering care.

Staff told us that they currently had some patients for whom they needed to make adjustments to enable them to receive treatment. We observed how all the practice team provided compassionate help and support to patients to enable them to access the practice. The practice had a system to ensure patients, where required could be seen in the downstairs treatment room. We were told the management team were in the process of reviewing this further with the potential for a rota system to ensure all clinicians were able to make use of the downstairs treatment room for one day.

Staff described an example of a patient who found it unsettling to wait in the waiting room before an appointment. The team kept this in mind to make sure the dentist could see them as soon as possible after they arrived. We were told the practice ensured there were sports programmes playing on the television in the waiting room, as the patient enjoyed these and it helped them stay calm and relaxed before their treatment.

The practice had made some adjustments for patients with disabilities. These included step free access. A Disability Access audit had been completed and an action plan formulated in order to continually improve access for patients. Due to the limitations of the building the practice team were very aware of the issues regarding access for patients. For example, the practice team described their plans to improve access to the building which included reducing the steepness of the ramp at the front of the building and the addition of a disabled toilet on the ground floor.

Staff told us that they used text messaging and e-mails to remind patients they had an appointment. Staff told us that they telephoned some older patients on the morning of their appointment to make sure they could get to the practice.

### **Timely access to services**

Patients were able to access care and treatment from the practice within an acceptable timescale for their needs.

The practice displayed its opening hours in the premises, and included it in their practice information leaflet and on their website.

The practice had an efficient appointment system to respond to patients' needs. Staff told us that patients who requested an urgent appointment were seen the same day. Patients told us they had enough time during their appointment and did not feel rushed. Appointments ran smoothly on the day of the inspection and patients told us they were not kept waiting.

They took part in an emergency on-call arrangement the NHS 111 out of hour's service.

The practice website, information leaflet and answerphone provided telephone numbers for patients needing emergency dental treatment during the working day and when the practice was not open. Patients confirmed they could make routine and emergency appointments easily and were rarely kept waiting for their appointment.

### **Listening and learning from concerns and complaints**

The practice took complaints and concerns seriously and responded to them appropriately to improve the quality of care.

The practice had a complaints policy providing guidance to staff on how to handle a complaint. The practice information leaflet explained how to make a complaint.

The practice manager was responsible for dealing with these. Staff told us they would tell the practice manager about any formal or informal comments or concerns straight away so patients received a quick response.

The practice manager told us they aimed to settle complaints in-house and invited patients to speak with them in person to discuss these. Information was available about organisations patients could contact if not satisfied with the way the practice dealt with their concerns.

## Are services responsive to people's needs? (for example, to feedback?)

The practice manager told us the practice had not received any written complaints, but they would always respond to any verbal comments immediately. One patient we spoke

with described how they had raised a concern with the practice regarding their treatment and the practice had taken immediate action to rectify this. They told us they were happy with the outcome.

# Are services well-led?

## Our findings

### Leadership capacity and capability

Leaders had the capacity and skills to deliver high-quality, sustainable care and the experience, capacity and skills to deliver the practice strategy and address risks to it.

They were knowledgeable about issues and priorities relating to the quality and future of services. They understood the challenges and were addressing them.

Leaders at all levels were visible and approachable. They worked closely with staff and others to make sure they prioritised compassionate and inclusive leadership.

The practice had effective processes to develop leadership capacity and skills, including planning for the future leadership of the practice.

### Vision and strategy

There was a clear vision and set of values. The practice had a realistic strategy and supporting business plans to achieve priorities.

### Culture

The practice had a culture of high-quality sustainable care.

Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They were proud to work in the practice.

The practice focused on the needs of patients.

Leaders and managers acted on behaviour and performance inconsistent with the vision and values.

Openness, honesty and transparency were demonstrated when responding to incidents and complaints. The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Duty of Candour.

Staff told us they were able to raise concerns and were encouraged to do so. They had confidence that these would be addressed.

### Governance and management

There were clear responsibilities, roles and systems of accountability to support good governance and management.

The three principal dentists and registered manager had overall responsibility for the management and clinical

leadership of the practice. The practice manager/registered manager was responsible for the day to day running of the service. Staff knew the management arrangements and their roles and responsibilities.

The provider had a system of clinical governance in place which included policies, protocols and procedures that were accessible to all members of staff and were reviewed on a regular basis.

There were clear and effective processes for managing risks, issues and performance.

### Appropriate and accurate information

The practice acted on appropriate and accurate information.

Quality and operational information was used to ensure and improve performance. Performance information was combined with the views of patients.

The practice had information governance arrangements and staff were aware of the importance of these in protecting patients' personal information.

### Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

The practice involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support high-quality sustainable services.

The practice used cards and verbal comments to obtain patients' views about the service. We saw examples of suggestions from patients the practice had acted on.

Patients were encouraged to complete the NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT). This is a national programme to allow patients to provide feedback on NHS services they have used.

The practice gathered feedback from staff through meetings, surveys, and informal discussions. Staff were encouraged to offer suggestions for improvements to the service and said these were listened to and acted on.

### Continuous improvement and innovation

There were some systems and processes for learning, continuous improvement and innovation. The practice had plans in place for future development of the premises and a potential expansion.

The practice had some quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These

## Are services well-led?

included audits of infection prevention and control and radiographs. The practice did not audit dental care records and prescribing. We discussed this with the practice who agreed to take immediate action and ensure they had clear records of the results of these audits and the resulting action plans and improvements.

The principal dentists and registered manager showed a commitment to learning and improvement and valued the contributions made to the team by individual members of staff.

The whole staff team had annual appraisals. They discussed learning needs, general wellbeing and aims for future professional development. We saw evidence of completed appraisals in the staff folders.

Staff told us they completed 'highly recommended' training as per General Dental Council professional standards. This included undertaking medical emergencies and basic life support training annually.

The General Dental Council also requires clinical staff to complete continuing professional development. Staff told us the practice provided support and encouragement for them to do so.