

Joanne McCartney AM  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

RECEIVED  
09 JUN 2008  
SECRETARIAT

21 April 2008

Dear Joanne,

Thank you for your letter and copy of *Teething problems*. I feel the report is a useful contribution to the understanding of Londoners' interaction with health services. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I note the recommendation in the report for the Strategic Health Authority to revise the Healthcare for London framework to account for dental provision. *A Framework for Action* set out the need for a new model of community-based care, falling between the current GP practice and the traditional district general hospital. In line with the vision set out in the white paper *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*, this new polyclinic model could provide both a greater range of services (including dentistry) and extended weekday and weekend opening hours to a critical mass of the population.

Earlier this month I invited PCTs to participate in a developmental programme, from April to June 2008, to gather information and explore the model in more detail. Again dentistry was listed among the services we would expect to find in the evolving service model for polyclinics. The future of polyclinic service models will be decided as part of the *Consulting the Capital* consultation process in line with the decisions taken by the Joint Committee of PCTs (planned for 12 June 2008).

As far as I am aware regarding the other recommendations, the London Dental network is now up and running; those remaining relate to PCTs, all of whom have received a copy of the report and actions were discussed at the last London dental leads meeting

I hope you find this a useful contribution.

Yours sincerely

**Ruth Carnall**  
**Chief Executive**