

Pearl Smile Limited

# Fog Lane Dental Practice

## Inspection Report

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Didsbury  
Manchester

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## Overall summary

We carried out this announced inspection on 1 May 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

Fog Lane Dental Practice is in Didsbury, Manchester and provides NHS and private treatment to adults and children.

A portable ramp is available for people who use wheelchairs and those with pushchairs. On-street parking is available near the practice.

The dental team includes two principal dentists and three associate dentists, seven dental nurses (one of whom supports the registered manager to manage the practice and three of whom are trainees), a dental hygienist and a receptionist. The practice has three treatment rooms.

# Summary of findings

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 the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated regulations about how the practice is run. The registered manager at Fog Lane Dental Practice was one of the principal dentists.

On the day of inspection, we collected 45 CQC comment cards filled in by patients. Patients were positive about all aspects of the service the practice provided.

During the inspection we spoke with three dentists (including the registered manager), four dental nurses and the dental hygienist. We looked at practice policies and procedures and other records about how the service is managed.

The practice is open:

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm

## 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 medicines and life-saving equipment were available apart from one item.
- The practice had systems to help them manage risk.
- The practice staff had suitable safeguarding processes and 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.
- The practice had effective leadership and culture of continuous improvement.
- Staff felt involved and supported and worked well as a team.
- The practice asked staff and patients for feedback about the services they provided.
- 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 staff training to ensure that all the staff have received training, to an appropriate level, in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.
- Review the practice's sharps procedures to ensure the practice is in compliance with the Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013.
- Review the training and availability of equipment 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.

We asked the following question(s).

### 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. Evidence of training was not available for three members of staff. We raised this with the registered manager who assured us they would address this.

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

A risk assessment was in place for the safe use of needles. This did not include the risk from other sharp items. We discussed this with the registered manager who gave assurance that this would be reviewed and risk assessed more thoroughly.

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. Evidence of training was not available for three members of staff. We raised this with the registered manager who assured us they would address this.

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 said they received good treatment, from caring and supportive staff.

The dentists discussed treatment with patients so they could give informed consent and recorded this in their records. Procedure specific consent forms were provided to patients before their treatment appointment to consider the proposed treatment.

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 45 people. Patients were positive about all aspects of the service the practice provided. They told us staff were welcoming, helpful and professional.

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.

No  
action  


# Summary of findings

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

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

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

The practice's appointment system was efficient and met patients' needs. 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 face to face interpreter services and had arrangements to help patients with sight or hearing loss.

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

**No  
action**  


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

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

On the day of the inspection, all staff were welcoming and open to discussion and feedback.

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 asking for, and listening to, the views of patients and staff. We saw evidence of on-going quality assurance audits which were discussed with staff to improve practise.

**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. We noted that evidence of training was not available for three members of staff. We raised this with the registered manager who gave assurance that this would be addressed. Staff knew about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and how to report concerns, including notification to the CQC.

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 recrimination.

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 also had checks in place for agency and locum staff. These reflected the relevant legislation. We looked at 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 appropriate professional indemnity cover.

The practice ensured that facilities and equipment were safe and that equipment was maintained according to manufacturers' instructions, including electrical and gas appliances.

A specialist company had recently completed a fire risk assessment of the premises. The practice was in the process of acting on the recommendations to improve fire detection systems, emergency lighting and means of escape. Records showed that emergency lighting, fire detection and firefighting equipment such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers were regularly tested.

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 noted that the local rules had not been updated after new equipment was installed or the layout of the treatment room had changed. We raised this with the principal dentist who agreed to consult their Radiation Protection Adviser for advice in relation to this.

We saw evidence that the dentists justified, graded and reported on the radiographs they took. The practice carried out radiography audits every year 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 appropriate current employer's liability insurance in place.

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 basic risk assessment had been undertaken for the safe use of needles. This did not include the risk from other sharp items. We discussed this with the principle dentist who gave assurance that this would be reviewed and risk assessed more thoroughly. Staff confirmed that only the

# Are services safe?

dentists were permitted to assemble, re-sheath and dispose of needles where necessary in order to minimise the risk of inoculation injuries to staff. Protocols were in place to ensure staff accessed appropriate care and advice in the event of a sharps injury and staff were aware of the importance of reporting inoculation injuries.

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. Evidence of up to date training was not available for three members of staff. We raised this with the registered manager who gave assurance that this would be addressed.

Emergency equipment and medicines were available as described in recognised guidance. Staff kept records of their checks to make sure these were available, within their expiry date, and in working order. We noted that a child-sized self-inflating oxygen bag and mask were not available. The registered manager confirmed this would be obtained.

A dental nurse worked with the dentists and the dental hygienist when they treated patients in line with GDC Standards for the Dental Team.

The provider had suitable risk assessments to minimise the risk that can be caused from substances that are hazardous to health.

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 had suitable arrangements for transporting, cleaning, checking, sterilising and storing instruments in line with HTM01-05. 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 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 data 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 had reliable systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines.

There was a suitable stock control system of medicines which were held on site. This ensured that medicines did not pass their expiry date and enough medicines were available if required.

# Are services safe?

The practice stored and kept records of NHS prescriptions as described in current guidance.

The dentists were aware of current guidance with regards to 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.

Incidents were investigated, documented and discussed with the rest of the dental practice team to prevent such occurrences happening again in the future.

## **Lessons learned and improvements**

The practice learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

The staff were aware of the Serious Incident Framework 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.

The practice offered dental implants. These were placed by a visiting specialist who had undergone appropriate post-graduate training in this speciality. The provision of dental implants was in accordance with national guidance.

The staff were involved in quality improvement initiatives including peer review as part of their approach in providing high quality care.

### 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 dentists and dental hygienist 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. Procedure specific consent forms were provided to patients before their treatment appointment to consider the proposed treatment. 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 had received training and understood their responsibilities under the act when treating adults who may not be able to make informed decisions. Staff also understood 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.

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.

We saw that the practice audited patients' dental care records to check that the dentists recorded the necessary information. The most recent audit had resulted in protocols to ensure that clinicians consistently documented alcohol intake and smoking cessation advice.

### Effective staffing

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

Staff new to the practice had a role-specific 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.

# Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Staff told us they discussed training needs at annual appraisals, one to one meetings and during clinical supervision. We saw evidence of completed appraisals, personal development plans, and how the practice addressed the training requirements of staff. For example, online, in-house training and lunch & learns.

## **Co-ordinating care and treatment**

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

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 welcoming, helpful and professional.

We saw that staff treated patients respectfully, appropriately and kindly 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.

Practice information, patient survey results and thank you cards were available for patients to read. A television had been installed in the waiting room in response to patient feedback.

### Privacy and dignity

The practice respected and promoted patients' privacy and dignity.

The layout of reception and waiting areas did not provide privacy when reception staff were dealing with patients however the receptionist was aware of the importance of privacy and confidentiality. Staff described how they avoided discussing confidential information in front of other patients and if a patient asked for more privacy they would take them into another room.

The reception computer screens were not visible to patients and 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 were aware of the

Accessible Information Standards and the requirements under the Equality Act. The Accessible Information Standard is a requirement to make sure that patients and their carers can access and understand the information they are given.

Interpretation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language. Patients were also told about multi-lingual staff that might be able to support them. Staff communicated with patients in a way that they could understand, for example, communication aids and easy read materials were available.

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 dentists described to us the methods they used to help patients understand treatment options discussed. These included for example, photographs, models; X-ray images taken of the tooth being examined or treated and shown to the patient/relative to help them better understand the diagnosis and treatment.

# 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.

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

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

The practice had made reasonable adjustments for patients with disabilities, in line with a Disability Access audit. These included a portable ramp, a hearing loop, a low-level reception desk and an accessible toilet. All treatment rooms were on the ground floor and a knee-break chair had been installed. This allows wheelchair access and easy patient entry and exit from either side of the chair. There were further plans to install grab rails and baby changing facilities in the patient toilet.

### 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. Patients could choose to receive text message and email reminders for upcoming appointments. 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 were not kept waiting.

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 and who to contact if they were not satisfied with the practice's response.

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

Staff 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.

We looked at comments, compliments and complaints the practice received in the last 12 months.

These showed the practice documented, investigated and responded to concerns appropriately and discussed outcomes with staff to share learning and improve the service.

# Are services well-led?

## Our findings

### Leadership capacity and capability

The dental team had the capacity and skills to deliver high-quality, sustainable care.

The management team had 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. Staff told us they were approachable and listened to them.

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 to provide high quality family dental care and supporting business plans to achieve priorities.

The strategy was in line with health and social priorities across the region. The practice planned its services to meet the needs of the practice population. Leaders were aware of, and previously participated in locally wide projects to improve oral health and reduce inequality. For example, 'Baby Teeth Do Matter' which is a programme developed by the Greater Manchester Local Dental Network to promote early dental attendance amongst young children, improve the delivery of preventive care and advice as well as the treatment of dental decay.

### 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 and share ideas. For example, a dentist who recently joined the practice had suggested a way to log prescriptions and this had been implemented by the practice. The senior dental nurse was being supported to participate in a management and governance role.

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 principal dentists had overall responsibility for the management, clinical leadership and day to day running of the practice with support from the senior dental nurse. 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 was aware of the European Data Protection Regulations. They were reviewing their processes for obtaining, storing and using information in line with this.

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

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

# Are services well-led?

On the day of the inspection, all staff were welcoming and open to discussion and feedback. The practice involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support high-quality sustainable services.

The practice used patient surveys, online feedback and verbal comments to obtain staff and patients' views about the service. We saw examples of suggestions from patients the practice had acted on. For example, providing a television in the waiting room and introducing payment plans.

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 latest results showed 100% of 36 respondents would recommend the practice.

The practice gathered feedback from staff through regular meetings 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 systems and processes for learning, continuous improvement and innovation.

The practice had quality assurance processes to encourage learning and continuous improvement. These included audits of dental care records, radiographs and infection prevention and control. They had clear records of the results of these audits and the resulting action plans and improvements.

The 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 and personal development plans 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.