

These notes refer to the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c.43) which received Royal Assent on 20 November 2003

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (COMMUNITY HEALTH AND STANDARDS) ACT 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 4 – Dental and Medical Services

Primary dental services

Section 171: Dental public health

355. *Section 171* inserts a new *section 16CB* into the 1977 Act. *Section 16CB* gives power to confer on PCTs, LHBs and the Assembly dental public health functions. Under *section 171(2)*, the existing duty on the Secretary of State under section 5(1A) of the 1977 Act to provide dental treatment and dental education in schools is repealed. PCTs and LHBs may involve other agencies in discharging dental public health functions, such as independent contractors or dental practices. For example, a PCT or LHB might wish to involve a dental practice in providing an oral health promotion or smoking cessation programme.