

Mobile dental unit supporting information

November 2024

1. The charity dental units visit a number of locations across different areas where patients will access them.

These locations include community centres, examples of which include:

- Nimrod Community Centre, Gosport
- Paulsgrove Community Centre, Portsmouth
- Somerstown Hub, Portsmouth
- Waterlooville Community Centre

Places of worship, often where patients access other services such as foodbanks, community lunches and support services:

- Colne Avenue Baptist Church, Southampton
- Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar, Southampton
- St Christopher's Church, Lordshill
- Lordshill Church

Public buildings and public spaces:

- ASDA car park, Havant
- West Wight Sports Centre, Isle of Wight
- Greywell car park, Havant

Mobile units are also run at locations with partner charities as well as clinics being carried out from the homeless health service in Southampton and Hope House in Portsmouth specifically for people experiencing homelessness.

In Basingstoke, the service has recently started clinics at Buckskin Community Centre. The next steps are clinics in Andover and areas of social deprivation in the New Forest.

2. The services are promoted through a number of different routes, including schools in areas of social deprivation, support workers at partner charities, community noticeboards at venues being visited and more. Direct NHS routes include via health visitors, midwives, GPs, 111 for emergency care and by attending events focused on increasing access to healthcare for under-served communities. Many people call for appointments after seeing the unit or via word of mouth. They are all assessed to see if they meet our eligibility criteria before being offered an appointment.

3. Areas are selected based on the indices of deprivation, access to other NHS dental services and local need. As an example, the service has evolved to carry out more clinics in Portsmouth and the surrounding areas as appointments in the area were getting booked up months in advance.

While also outside of Hampshire County Council's boundaries, the Isle of Wight is visited every Tuesday and Wednesday. Other locations that have been visited include Totton, Dentaid works to ensure a wide geographical spread to ensure patient journeys are as short as possible, with many patients not having their own transport. As previously mentioned, clinics are now being held in Basingstoke with clinics being looked at for Andover and followed by the New Forest.

The direction was given by NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight that areas of greatest deprivation and reduced access, such as the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton were initially focused on, the service is beginning to examine new areas including Andover and the New Forest in consultation with NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight.