

## **Report on Dental Services for Hampshire HASC held on 29 November 2022**

### **Recovery of Dental Services after COVID-19**

Since July 2022 dental practices have been required to deliver their full contract provision; previously, practices were achieving a predefined national threshold as they recovered from the impact of COVID-19 and the backlog this has generated. Some dental practices are still unable to deliver full contract provision due to a variety of reasons, frequently due to recruitment and retention challenges across not only dentists, but also their support staff. Recruitment and retention is a particular issue for Hampshire prior to the pandemic and the current recruitment issues and so there has been historic under delivery of activity which has all impacted on dental provision across the locality.

Patients who require routine care, can find details of practices providing NHS dental care on: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist> or by ringing 111 who will provide details of local dental practices providing NHS care. However, for the reasons outlined above, at the current time it is anticipated that many practices will not be able to accept new patients for non-urgent care.

### **Urgent Care Access**

Additional funding was also offered to all practices in the South East region in December 2020 to provide sessions outside normal contracted hours for patients who did not have a regular dentist and had an urgent need to receive dental treatment. There are 2 practices in Hampshire, detailed below, that currently have the staffing levels to safely undertake additional sessions for urgent care, specifically for patients that would be new to the practice.

- Alton Dental, Alton, 01420 83589
- Stratfield Road Dental Practice, Basingstoke, 01256 326690

The offer of funding additional sessions remains open so that should other practices subsequently determine they have the staffing levels to safely deliver additional NHS sessions, these will be established.

### **Contract Closures and Procurement**

Since April 2020, 16 practices across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HIOW) have chosen to stop providing NHS dental care and handed their contract back to the NHS. The total Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) lost by these hand backs totals 70,671UDAs.

The procurement of replacement services commenced under reference MDS3. The procurement process takes a considerable time and involves many stages. As an interim measure to reduce the impact of the contracts being handed back, we asked existing dental practices to undertake temporary activity to increase the amount of care they can provide.

NHS England has now completed the procurement process across HIOW and bidders have successfully been awarded contracts in the following locations:

Portsmouth - 104,000 UDAs - (4 locations @ 21,000 UDAs)  
 Southampton - 42,000 UDAs - (2 locations @ 21,000 UDAs)  
 Gosport – 14,000 UDAs  
 Havant – 16,000 UDAs

Below is a dataset demonstrating how the current procurement will impact on the number of UDAs per head of population.

Local/Unitary Authority (LA/UA)	Total contracted UDAs as at 16.12.21	Total contracted UDAs when Portsmouth and Tadley contracts start	UDAs in procurement pipeline as proposed	Revised activity after procurement as proposed	LA/UA IMD rank out of 317 (2019)	LA/UA Population all ages mid 2019	Commissioned UDAs per head of LA/UA population when Portsmouth and Tadley contracts start	Revised commissioned UDAs per head of LA/UA population after procurement in pipeline
Portsmouth	310,744	320,744	104,000	424,744	59	214,905	1.49	1.88
Southampton	385,274	385,274	42,000 – (21,000 to be re-commissioned)	448,274	61	252,520	1.53	1.78
Isle of Wight	235,406	235,406	(25,000 to be re-commissioned)	249,406	98	141,771	1.66	1.76
Havant	200,863	200,863	16,000	216,863	119	126,220	1.59	1.72
Gosport	131,933	131,933	14,000	145,933	133	84,838	1.56	1.72
New Forest	274,091	274,091	-	274,091	240	180,086	1.52	1.52
Basingstoke and Deane	224,319	239,319	-	239,319	243	176,582	1.36	1.36
Test Valley	130,729	130,729	-	130,729	261	126,160	1.04	1.04
East Hampshire	118,556	118,556	-	118,556	285	122,308	0.97	0.97
Eastleigh	204,558	204,558	-	204,558	287	133,584	1.53	1.53
Winchester	175,238	175,238	-	175,238	292	124,859	1.40	1.40
Fareham	143,225	143,225	-	143,225	298	116,233	1.23	1.23
Hart	51,387	51,387	-	51,387	317	26,681	1.93	1.93

Although the recent procurement process included the Isle of Wight, no bids were received for this location; Southampton also had 3 ‘Lots’ for bidders to apply for, but one Lot was unsuccessful in receiving bids and the associated 21,000 UDAs have therefore been included in the next round of procurement, which commences shortly.

The successful bidders are currently mobilising their services which are to be delivered from a mixture of current premises and newly developed premises. It is anticipated that once building works are completed, the practices are planned to open by 1 April 2023, subject to any unforeseen delays. The temporary activity previously in place and will continue until this date.

Cosham procurement delays. A previous procurement exercise (2019/20) continues to have some difficulties with agreeing a start date for one contract awarded in Cosham. NHS England are in communication with both the Provider of the proposed services and ICBs to see how these services can be brought on line. The issue relate to CQC registration which is outside of the control of NHS England, although we have been in contact with the CQC and the provider to assist with the process to gain a resolution. There is no current date for the commencement of these services.

### **Delegation of Dental Services to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)**

Since July 2022, dental services along with pharmacy and optometry services have been delegated to the ICBs. The ICBs now have commissioning responsibilities for these services and are supported by NHS England who provide an ongoing 'day to day overview of services'. NHS England and the ICBs have been working collaboratively on how to achieve the best dental provision for patients across HIOW.

### **Changes to the Way NHS Dentistry is Delivered**

There continue to be a number of ongoing workstreams which will enhance dental services in the forthcoming years.

Earlier this year there was an announcement of planned changes to the NHS dental contract with the first phase now implemented. These changes include arrangements designed to improve patient access and have been briefly summarised below:

- Introduction of a minimum indicative UDA value of £23.00
- Patients with fillings or extractions of three or more teeth in a course of treatment will attract 5 UDAs (previously no limit on number of teeth per course for 3 UDAs)
- Molar endodontic treatment will attract 7 UDAs to recognise the time this takes to complete (previously 3 UDAs)
- Agreement for national dental team to provide patient leaflets etc to help dentists and patients implement the NICE guidance relating to patient recall intervals
- Promotion of guidance to assist with effective skill mix in dental staff
- Amendments to dental contract to allow contractors to deliver up to 110% of their actual contract value on a non-recurrent basis when agreed with commissioners to ensure this meets local needs.
- Contractors to ensure their entry <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist> is up to date as a quarterly requirement or when unexpected changes to opening times occur allowing patients to find a practice who is accepting NHS patients, easier.

More widely, Health Education England has published '[Advancing Dental Care \(ADC\) Review Report](#)', the culmination of a three-year review to identify and develop a future dental education and training infrastructure that produces a skilled multi-professional oral healthcare workforce, which can best support patient and population needs within the NHS. The Government is currently considering the next steps.

In addition, the Government is also considering moving forward with water fluoridation, a public health initiative the Chief Dental Officer [strongly supports](#). As the robust international evidence shows, water fluoridation is another public health tool that can reduce the incidence of tooth decay amongst adults and children, saving potentially thousands of teeth and improving oral health inequality in the process.