

Update on Hampshire and Isle of Wight Dental Services for Hampshire HASC on 8 March 2022

Current situation

The dental profession continues to work under the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) agreed with Public Dental Health and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer. Although this has been amended on several occasions, it remains in place to safeguard patients and the dental team. This has resulted in a reduction in activity and a backlog which means that many patients, including those with a regular dentist, are unable to access routine care. While practices continue to prioritise patients with an urgent need, where they have the capacity to provide more than urgent care they will prioritise according to clinical need such as patients that require dental treatment before they undergo medical or surgical procedures, those that have received temporary urgent treatment and require completion of this, looked after children (LAC) and those identified as being in a high-risk category and have been advised they should have more frequent recall intervals. It may still be necessary for patients with an urgent need to contact more than one practice as each practice's capacity will change daily dependent upon the number of patients seeking care and the practice's staffing levels.

50m additional funding for NHS dental services

Further to the government announcement of the additional £50m investment for NHS dentistry the dental team contacted all mandatory dental service contractors in the South East region with further details of this national scheme to encourage eligible dental practices to take up the offer of additional funding. It is a short-term investment to provide an immediate boost until 31 March 2022. The funding is available for dental practices to deliver activity outside of contracted hours, i.e. early morning/evenings and weekends. The additional activity will be paid at £654 per 3.5 hour session. The sessions will be for patients with urgent care and subsequent stabilisation needs who contact the practice directly, via NHS 111 or directed by Healthwatch or the out of hours emergency dental services where they need stabilisation following urgent treatment. It is expected that between four to six patients will be seen per 3.5 hour session.

Listed below are the details of the practices in Hampshire:

Name of practice	Contract Town	Contract Postcode	Number of Sessions	Value of Payment
Quaintways Cottage	Hartley Wintney Hook	RG27 8NS	16	£10,464.00
Stratfield Road Dental Practice	Basingstoke	RG21 5SA	18	£11,772.00
Smile Dental Care	Eastleigh	SO50 5JH	80	£52,320.00
Smile Dental Care	Portsmouth	PO1 4ND	16	£10,464.00
Palmerston Dental Practice	Fareham	PO16 7DP	18	£11,772.00
Alton Dental	Alton	GU34 2RE	18	£11,772.00

Days of operation and times are listed separately below:

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
ICS:	Practice Name:	28/02/2022	01/03/2022	02/03/2022	03/03/2022	04/03/2022	05/03/2022	06/03/2022
HloW	Quaintways Cottage			17:00-20:30	17:00-20:30			
HloW	Stratfield Road Dental Practice	08:00-09:00 17:00-18:00			08:30-09:00 17:00-18:00		09:00-12:30	
HloW	Smile Dental Care - Eastleigh						09:00-17:00	
HloW	Smile Dental Care - Portsmouth						13:00-16:30	13:00-16:30
HloW	Palmerston Dental Practice					09:00-16:30	10:00-13:30	
HloW	Alton Dental		18:00-19:30				10.15-13.45	

Some practices have offered different hours depending on the week; however, across Hampshire the above hours are duplicated from 28 February until 31 March 2022. Unfortunately, there are no additional sessions on the Isle of Wight; practices have advised they do not have capacity to undertake any additional sessions.

Looked After Children (LAC) Pilot Scheme – Access sessions

A pilot scheme was developed following reports from across the region that foster carers and Lead Care Workers from Local Authorities were having difficulties in accessing the required assessment within the defined timescales. As a result, NHSE/I commenced a pilot to create a pathway for LAC to supplement the ongoing requirement for all practices to continue to prioritise patient groups with the greatest need (which includes LAC). The pilot is in place until 31 March 2022 and is funded on a sessional basis.

Sessions operate outside a practice's current NHS commitment/contracted hours. Funding is offered at £115 per hour and can be a stand-alone hour on one or more day, or blocks of hours (eg 2 hours one evening, half or a full Saturday or Sunday).

Currently one practice across Hampshire is providing LAC access sessions as below:

The Triangle Surgery, 3 The Triangle, Cobden Avenue Bitterne Park Southampton SO18 1FZ LAC session hours:							Total LAC hours offered per week:
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	
		08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	13:00-15:00			4

LAC and DentaId - In addition to the LAC pilot, the dental team are working with the local CCGs and Looked After Children Leads to support additional access sessions being undertaken by DentaId. This is currently under development with sessions currently being agreed across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight where access for the mobile unit can be established.

Non-Recurrent Funding/Additional Activity

In 2019, Colosseum Group gave notice on three contracts they held to provide NHS Mandatory Dental Services in Portsmouth in the areas of Portsea, Southsea and Paulsgrove. Although these contracts were for over 37k Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) in total, the Colosseum group was not able to achieve this level of activity. Following a procurement exercise across Portsmouth, Alton and Tadley (PATp, two contracts together delivering 31,500 UDAs (equivalent to approx. 4.5 dentists) were awarded with one in the north of the city in Cosham (10,000 UDAs) and one in the south of the city in Portsea (21,500 UDAs). These contracts were due to commence from 1 April 2021 however due to COVID-19 the start date of the one in the south was delayed until 1 June 2021. The practice in Cosham has had several issues with recruitment and will commence services early March 2022. In addition to these contracts two further contracts were awarded in Alton (18,000 UDAs) and Tadley (15,000 UDAs). Services in Alton were awarded to an existing provider with capacity to commence services on award. These commenced in December 2020. Tadley was a new practice, however due to COVID-19 lockdown the bidder lost their preferred location and was required to find alternative premises. The provider experienced further delays with building works at the new site but is ready to commence services on 1 April 2022.

Whilst the dental team undertook the procurement of the practices from the PAT procurement exercise, all practices across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were asked to undertake additional non recurrent

activity where they had capacity. Initially this activity was due to end on 31 March 2020 however this was extended due to the delays experienced with the start date of the new practices.

Since 1 April 2021, nine practices have served notice on their NHS Mandatory Dental Service contracts in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight locality: two in Fareham, two in Winchester, four in Portsmouth and one on the Isle of Wight in Bembridge. The total UDAs which handed back are 46,792. All practices in the locality have been approached once more to establish if they can undertake additional activity whilst a procurement exercise is undertaken. The end date of the non-recurrent activity has been agreed as 31 March 2023 for all practices to allow time for the procurement to take place. All non-recurrent activity remains in place until such times that the whole procurement process is finalised; so even though the PAT procurement nearing completion, the additional funding will remain in the system until at least 1 April 2023. This will assist with the recovery of dental activity across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Below is a list of locations where practices have agreed to additional activity and non-recurrent activity until 31 March 2023.

<i>Practice Town</i>	<i>Temporary (22/23) UDAs</i>
East Cowes	3,510
Fareham	4,000
Fareham	1,821
Lee On The Solent	600
Grayshott	1,623
Farnborough	2,511
Fleet	5,069
Camberley	295
Fleet	1,106
Basingstoke	1,596
South Ham	5,118
Winchester	4,550
Eastleigh	1,200
Bursledon	2,753
Southampton	647
Havant	1,238
Havant	4,888
Basingstoke	892
Winchester	5,791
Southampton	6,000
Southampton	4,000
Southampton	1,713
Southampton	1,996
Southampton	2,424
Southampton	3,272
Havant	1,694
Alton	4,525
Ryde	TBC
Portsmouth	5,000
Southsea	5,000
Portsmouth	5,000
	89,832

Patients should continue to ring 111 or use the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk> to find a dentist who has capacity to offer treatment at the time of contact. All practices have been advised to update their entry on the NHS website to show they are accepting patients; this is for urgent care and where they have capacity, for routine care for patients in line with their clinical need as previously mentioned. However as advised, patients may need to ring several practices as capacity will change daily.

Procurement South East – MDS 3

As part of a planned procurement process across the South East region, the dental team are currently prioritising procurement in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (as mentioned above). A review of commissioned General Dental Services and associated documents is currently with key stakeholders for comment. It is anticipated to commence the procurement process once the documentation is agreed. The lead time for procurement is variable but it is anticipated that where possible contracts will commence on 1 April 2023.

Dual Post to assist with dental transformation

NHSE/I, the CCGs and Local Authority are working collaboratively to develop a job role which will work alongside key stakeholders such as Health Education England, Portsmouth Dental Academy, the Community Dental Service and local dental practices to find alternative ways of recruiting and retaining dentists into the area. This post will support recommissioning and explore options for joint posts across multiple organisations so this may make working in these areas more attractive; this will initially focus on Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Gosport, due to the proximity of Portsmouth Dental Academy.